FBIS DAILY REPORT

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BOLIVIA, ECUADOR, PANAMA NORMALIZE RELATIONS

PY202210 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Nov 81

[Excerpt] Bolivian Foreign Minister Gonzalo Romero stated that during the past few hours Ecuador and Panama normalized their diplomatic relations with Bolivia. Relations between the countries were suspended last year. The foreign minister made these remarks shortly after meeting with the Panamanian ambassador who officially reestablished relations between his country and Bolivia.

Gonzalo Romero stated that one of his latest remarks to the press was not well interpreted, and for this reason the normalization of relations with Venezuela has been taken for granted.

BISHOP OPENS TRADE UNION MEETING IN GRENADA

FL190136 Bridgetown CANA in English 2348 GMT 18 Nov 81

[Excerpts] St Georges, Grenada, 18 Nov (CANA) -- Grenada's prime minister, Maurice Bishop, has said here that the economic crisis which is intensifying in the major Western industrialized countries is having a severe effect on the Caribbean. Mr Bishop charged that this crisis is forcing employers throughout the region to unite and to attack trade unions.

He was at the time delivering the feature address at the opening of the 3d Caribbean Trade Union Conference in unity and solidarity with Caribbean workers. The conference, which is being jointly sponsored by the Grenada Trade Union Council (TUC) and the trade union movement in Cuba, has attracted delegates from throughout the English-speaking Caribbean, as well as Guadaloupe, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Venezuela, Curacao, Bermuda, Nicaragua, Cayenne and Cuba.

The conference, which will conclude on 21 November, will look at a number of issues affecting workers in the Caribbean such as the socio-economic problems confronting workers and the effects of multinational corporations on the working and living conditions of workers in the region.

He suggested that the trade unions in the Caribbean should attempt to combat such practices by casting aside their political and ideological differences and to forge a regional unity of trade union bodies. "This is why we have to work towards the total unionization of our workers and the maximum democratization of our unions to ensure that they are vigilant and active in the struggles against the employers and to guarantee that the negativism and captivity that arise from undemocratic trade union structures is forever finished in our region," he said.

Mr Bishop also said that the trade union movement in the region should meet the serious challenges ahead by exchanging information and consolidating their power and unity, as well as coordinate strategies to overcome the offenses against the movement.

Mr Bishop also accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of attempting over the years to subvert the trade union movement in the Caribbean and murdering some of the region's best trade union leaders. He said that the CIA with its sophistication and enormous financial resources had succeeded in some cases in manipulating and poisoning some trade unionists in the region and at times forcing trade union leaders into taking antiworker positions.

He suggested that the trade union movement in the region come together and "thwart both the covert and overt activities of the CIA in the Caribbean."

Mr Bishop said that since his leftist New Jewel Movement ousted the Eric Gairy regime in a March 1979 coup, it has been attempting to work alongside trade unions in Grenada in improving the lot of workers in the country. He said that in Grenada the objectives of the government and the trade unions were the same and that any antagonism between the Grenada revolution and the trade union movement in the country was gradually lessening.

TU Conference First Day

FL192339 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 19 Nov 81

[Text] The 3d Trade Union Conference for Unity and Solidarity of Caribbean Workers has just concluded its first full day at the dome in Grand Anse. The conference was officially opened yesterday by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop who, among other things, called for regional trade union unity in the face of the new offensive by employers in the region, and he also urged delegates to support the struggle for a new international information order.

During today's session, there were discussions on the main report of the conference as well as presentations of delegates from Trinidad, Suriname, Cayenne, Dominica, Antigua, Guadeloupe, the Dominican Republic, Curacao and Belize. The delegates spoke on the situation of their respective countries and the need for trade union solidarity in light of the present economic crisis in the advanced capitalist states which, along with the operations of multinational corporations in the region, have an adverse effect on developing nations in the Caribbean and Latin America. A source at the conference said tomorrow's session will be a lively one with many more delegates expected to speak.

The Grenada trade union conference, which comes after others in Guyana and Cuba, is the biggest to be held so far. At present there are 52 delegates and four observers at the conference and other participants are expected tomorrow. Among those who arrived today were two delegates from the Central Workers Union of Venezuela and the president of the Caribbean Union of Teachers, St Lucian (Alfred Jean-Batiste).

Trade Unionists End Conference

FL232013 Bridgetown CANA in English 1650 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Excerpt] St Georges, Grenada, 22 Nov (CANA) -- Trade unionists from throughout Latin America and the Cairbbean wound up a 4-day conference in Grenada last night with a call for the region to be declared a zone of peace, free of military bases. According to Vincent Noel, first vice president of the Grenada Trade Union Council (TUC), the delegates agreed that all military bases should be removed from the area and that military maneuvers in the region should be stopped.

Mr Noel, who was the chairman of the conference, told reporters shortly after the final session that the conference agreed in its final communique, which is to be issued later today, that the Caribbean should be declared a zone of peace, so that the people of the region can exist without fear and intimidation. The conference, which was sponsored jointly by the TUC and the Trade Union Movement of Cuba, was attended by delegates from throughout the English-speaking Caribbean as well as Cuba, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, French Guiana, Suriname and Bermuda. Among the issues looked at were problems affecting workers in the Caribbean, the question of peace and the need for detente and disarmament, the impact of multinational corporations and other related factors concerning workers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

WORLD SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE SET FOR 23 NOV

FL202355 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 20 Nov 81

[Text] Delegates are continuing to arrive for the international solidarity conference which begins at the National Convention Center on Monday morning. Several delegates arrived today, among them, delegations from the Soviet Union, Mongolia, the People's Republic of South Yemen, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Cuba, the FRG, Bulgaria, Puerto Rico and the United States. Delegates from (?several) organizations also arrived, including a large number from the United States. Among these organizations are (?Fight Back), the National Black United Front, the black workers organization, the U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society, the COVERT ACTION INFORMATION BULLETIN and the Puerto Rican Organization for Justice and Peace in the Caribbean. In the mission there also journalists from radio and television stations in North America.

Also arriving today were a Swedish member of Parliament from the Social Democratic Party in that country and a representative from the (?mayor) of Berkeley, California, in the United States. Dr Cheddi Jagan, former premier of Guyana, is also here for the conference, as well as Kenneth Denn, a representative of Guyana's People's National Congress.

A source close to the organizers of the conference told RFG [Radio Free Grenada] news tonight that, in addition, all indications are that about 75 percent of the delegates attending the current Caribbean Trade Union Conference here will also be staying on for the solidarity meeting.

And in an interview with RFG news tonight, National Mobilization Minister Selwyn Strachan said the conference will take place at a very important time in Grenada's history when the revolution is facing its biggest threat from U.S. imperialism. The conference, Brother Strachan said, will allow the delegates to get first hand experience of the revolution at work (?and to) be in a better position to inform their people when they return home.

All the delegates here will be attending the bloody Sunday rally at (Ceemoon) and thousands of Grenadians are expected to turn out at the dome on Monday when the conference officially opens.

Bishop's Opening Address

FL232343 Bridgetown CANA in English 2321 GMT 23 Nov 81

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, 23 Nov (CANA) -- Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop today said that attempts by his left-leaning government to transform the economy were being hampered by a number of difficulties which were slowing the island's progress. Delivering the keynote address at the opening of a 3-day international conference in solidarity with the Grenada revolution, Mr Bishop again accused the United States of being hostile to his government.

He said that since the leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM) ousted the Eric Gairy regime in a March 1979 coup, it had been trying to build a new life for Grenadians by slashing unemployment, improving the standard of living and controlling the limited resources the country has. But he charged that attempts had been made to block this effort by a U.S. coordinated campaign of economic stagnation at the regional and extra-regional levels.

The Grenadian prime minister said that the country had been facing major setbacks in the areas of agriculture and tourism, areas which had been affected by the economic crisis in the major Western industrialized countries. "The magnitude of this dependence is seen in the agricultural sector where the country's main export crops, cocoa, nutmeg and bananas, have been severely affected by a drop in prices by some 22 percent last year, as compared to the previous year," said Mr Bishop. He also noted that problems in the agricultural sector had been further aggravated by an 8 percent drop in tourist arrivals last year, resulting in a greater loss of foreign exchange earnings.

He added that as a result unemployment had increased, income generation had fallen and the economy had stagnated. Mr Bishop charged that a "massive propaganda destabilization campaign by forces bent on destroying the revolution" had also played its part in the decline in tourist arrivals. The substantial loss in revenue, he said, had only served to aggravate what he termed the already "unfair, unjust and unequal" balance of trade in Grenada.

He, however, said that his government was determined to continue its program for Grenada's reconstruction, which was primarily centered on the diversification of the agricultural sector. He said that with diversification of the sector, exports were likely to be increased. At the same time the country would not be so dependent on any one buyer of its products, the prime minister added.

Domestic agricultural production is also to be expanded as a basis for agro-industrial development and to forge a link between it and the tourist sector, said Mr Bishop. The Grenada Government is hoping, too, to expand the tourist industry by seeking new markets through increased promotion mainly in Western Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America, Prime Minister Bishop said.

32 NATIONS TO ATTEND SELA MEETING IN PANAMA

PA2104O0 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 20 Nov 81 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] Most of the member countries of the Latin American Economic System [SELA] are sending their foreign ministers to Panama. So far, 14 foreign ministers of the 26 SELA members have confirmed that they will participate in the meeting.

The following countries have announced that their delegations will be headed by foreign ministers: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Suriname. Venezuela is expected to make an announcement at any moment. It is also assumed that the Mexican foreign minister will attend, in view of Mexico's historic role in defining the region's position regarding the United States.

Pending are replies from the foreign ministers of Trinidad and Tobago, Paraguay, Barbados, Haiti and Guatemala and it is not yet known who will head the delegations of Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. Cuba will be represented by the minister of economic cooperation, while Grenada will send the minister of agro-industry.

With the new Caribbean states that the Panama conference has invited to attend as special guests, there will be 32 Latin American states present at the meeting, making it the most important and extensive gathering ever held by an organization in the region, with the largest number of Latin American countries ever to meet in history.

IGLESIAS ROUCO COMMENTARY ON ARGENTINE SITUATION

PY200259 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Nov 81 pp 1, 4

[J. Iglesias Rouco article: "Toward the End of a Phase"]

[Text] President Viola's resignation is not a distant possibility any longer and it could even take place by the middle or the end of December. However, the highest authorities of the "process" have not yet decided anything about it. According to our sources, the military junta will start considering this matter the day after tomorrow. There are those who think that the president's resignation might take place not in December but in February or March after the summer holidays, with the purpose of reducing the "margin of the next government," since the natural summer break will prevent its members from making an in-depth analysis of the country's more urgent problems. But we say again: The final decision has by no means been arrived at yet on the need for a change of presidents, so that what appears to be inevitable in the opinion of some or many people, could turn out to be a mere partial or total cabinet reshuffle, which will not affect Viola's continuity.

Aside from the widely known political and economic reasons that will be taken into consideration in dealing with such a significant issue, and aside from the criticism -- against the actions of the president and his team -- that has been made for a long time by people who are either inside or outside the "process," the truth is that the president's bad health will perhaps stand as the decisive reason -- or as one of the more significant reasons -- for his resignation, should it take place. According to our sources, last Monday, Viola underwent not only plain hypertension trouble but a slight infarct or preinfarct, which endorses — logically -- the existing doubts, including those of the president himself, about his capacity to continue bearing the heavy burden of the government. As far as we know, even a coronary unit has reportedly been installed at the Olivos residence; this unit is similar to the one that operated there in 1974 during Peron's last months. We also know that two military doctors have been keeping a continuous watch on his health at the Olivos residence.

In case the junta and the president finally decide in favor of resignation, Viola and the armed forces chiefs are likely to designate the team that will succeed the present one so that the new cabinet could be nominated even before Viola's resignation. Several ministers will reportedly stay in their posts. This would smooth out the impression that the military regime has changed or that there has been a "breakdown" in this stage of the "process."

However, according to the sources contacted, no resolution on the various "options" will be adopted before the designation of the new air force commander in chief, who will be appointed by the end of this month or at the beginning of December. The "alternatives" are: Viola's resignation, total cabinet reshuffle headed by Viola or partial reorganization of the government and of the political and economic program. Both in case the president is replaced or if a partial crisis is admitted, the next air force chief will probably participate not only in the debates dealing with that issue but also in the preparation of a political document that the junta will reportedly release in December. This document will mention a series of political and economic goals to be achieved during the current and the coming stages of the "process." It will also reassert that the military junta will continue to be the only source and holder of the highest power of the state.

In case Viola decides to resign, the junta will also have to deal with the sensitive problem of appointing his successor and with the operation of the power structure up to the end of 1982. In some military circles it is believed that the system that will be enforced will be the one with which the "process" started in 1976 and by which one of the commanders -- the president of the junta -- assumed the provisional presidency of the nation. In this way, when the army commander in chief is relieved in December 1982, General Galtieri should become president. However, other sectors believe in the rotation of the presidency up to that date.

But the truth is that despite everything that has been said regarding Galtieri's intentions to hold the command of the army up to December 1982 -- although at the time he was appointed it was agreed in principle that his term would be only 2 years and not 3 -- the army commander could very well end his military term in office this year and, in this way, reach Government House immediately with no violation at all of the above power structure. All of this will happen, of course, if Viola resigns.

Besides, it should not be overlooked that with the resignation or without it the commanders could pave the way for a direct and open dialogue between the military junta and the parties -- the dialogue has so far been direct but not open -- in response to the demands from many sectors; it should not be overlooked either that negotiations aimed at implementing an institutional solution -- which seems rather far away now -- could be held officially at that level. These negotiations could result in the designation of a president for 1984 who will be elected by the junta but who will count on the support from all civil sectors and will have goals that will be shaped by both civilians and the military.

Anyway, the next step will be the meeting of the junta which will be held on Tuesday [17 November]. If the idea of Viola's resignation or at least of his progressive withdrawal prevails in the next few weeks or days -- everything will depend on his health -- the president could ask for a sick leave, after which the commanders in chief will start moving actively in the previously mentioned directions.

Truly, the nation must overcome its stagnation as soon as possible. For this purpose, the armed forces should recover their capacity for political initiative, that is, for producing action. If they do so, they will render a significant service to the entire nation as they did in 1976 or in 1975. Their action will also encourage the parties and associations to act, and in this way a positive atmosphere could perhaps be created for the assumption of responsibilities and for the common search for solutions. But for this purpose it is essential to clarify the nature of our evils, the solutions which are desired and how these solutions should be sought. The statement by the episcopate, which was issued yesterday, hits -- as the preceeding one did -- at the root of our national evils, which is no less then the almost total loss of moral and ethical principles and authority. Unfortunately, that statement coincides with the strong campaign that the church is staging in order to make the Argentine Government accept the papal "proposal" on the Beagle. Therefore, the regime could regard this campaign as a kind of indirect pressure aimed at achieving a diplomatic success which has nothing to do with the true Argentine concerns.

According to our sources, two important events regarding the Beagle are approaching: 1) A relatively elusive answer by Buenos Aires to the last Vatican message. The armed forces chiefs still reject the "proposal" in its present terms. More "clarification" will then be requested from the pope. The note will be sent in a few days, perhaps by the end of this week, after the meeting of the military committee. 2) The "multiparty" will also issue a statement this week which, although supporting the mediation, will reportedly disapprove the "proposal."

However, in this regard, as in many other cases, the political power will have to coordinate its various policies once and for all if it does not want to confuse -- and weaken -- the people's opinion about the status of Argentina's rights. A few days ago, for example, Colonel Echeveste, head of the National Meteorological Service, received a report about a serious matter: The 2130 newscast of Channel 7 shows the viewers an Argentine map in which the coast of Tierra del Fuego's great island is shown as the boundary of Argentina to the south and the States Island to the east. On 3 November the cameras had focused on this part of the map and it was obvious that the Beagle islands and isles were no even on it. Colonel Echeveste told the person who submitted the report, a Mr Gonzalez Dorrego, that he "fully shared his concern" but that he could do nothing about the matter in question because he has no jurisdiction over Channel 7. Somewhere around that date, spokesmen for the office of the commander in chief of the air force did not disguise their enmity toward certain persons who have done an outstanding job in defending the Argentine thesis on the Beagle, such as Admiral Rojas. Here is something by way of an example: The National Technical University had invited the air force to participate in the "first conference on the utilization of the Bermejo River."

In response to a telephone call a high-ranking officer of the air force indicated that this branch would not participate because the admiral was among the panel members and described him as "an enemy of the process." Apparently, the officer also hinted that the attitude of the air force would change if Rojas were ousted. I guess this is enough for today. However, there are other interesting pieces of news which clearly reflect the current status of the country and which could, perhaps, help to make it clear.

1) Generals N.colaides, Trimarco, Sant Jean, Valin and Guanabens Perello will reportedly be appointed commanders of the I, II, III, IV and V [Army] Corps, respectively.

2) The presidential press secretary is up to his tricks with LA PRENSA again. During a conference at the war college he hinted that our criticisms are being motivated by exclusively commercial considerations, that is, seeking to "sell more papers." His words did not make a good impression on the officers.

3) Approximately 15 officials of the DGI [General Revenue Department] were reportedly arrested some time ago by the police and interrogated in connection with corruption on duty. It seems that several of them admitted their guilt. However, at a meeting held at the School of Economics of the University of Buenos Aires, radical activist Andres Amil said that some of the arrested persons had been subjected to police brutality. He also indicated that in his opinion General Corletta, DGI director, had had nothing to do with this alleged brutality.

4) The Economy Ministry has allegedly placed at the disposal of the armed forces $300 million more to finance "additional foreign financing programs." This $300 million had not been included in the estimated budget for the last quarter of the year. Diplomatic circles believe that this additional expenditure is related to new international tensions, the Beagle affair included.

REPORT ON CABINET MEETING, VIOLA'S HEALTH

PY232119 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2044 GMT 23 Nov 81

[By Joaquin Navasal]

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 23 Nov (LATIN-REUTER) -- Acting President Gen Horacio Liendo presided over the Cabinet meeting for the first time today and he also met with members of the economic team. Liendo, who assumed the presidency in a private ceremony held at the Olivos residence last Saturday, arrived at Government House shortly after 0730 and began a 2-hour meeting with members of the economic team headed by Economy Minister Lorenzo Sigaut. The president continued his activities by meeting with the entire Cabinet until past noon.

A Casa Rosada spokesman reported that President Viola, who has been affected by hypertension and cardiac insufficiency for the last 2 weeks, continues with his mental and physical rest on strict orders from his physicians. The spokesman denied that Viola would go to the army hospital today to take new examinations. Newspapers had reported that the president would undergo medical control examinations in order to determine more precisely the state of his health and the period required for his recovery. A new period of mental and physical rest has been prescribed for the president, and he is taking it, the presidential spokesman said. Although up until now it has not been clarified how long Viola will be on leave of absence, official sources said that physicians estimate 3 weeks will be required for his recovery.

RADICAL LEADERS WANT POLITICAL SYSTEM CHANGED

PY232215 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2054 GMT 20 Nov 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Nov (NA) -- Luis Leon, secretary of the National Committee of the Radical Civic Union, has expressed wishes for the improvement of President Viola's health, but he remarked: "The political solution does not lie in changing the president or ministers, but on changing the system."

He said that "our decline will have the regrettable dizzying pace of the past few years if three commanders continue to make appointments on behalf of the population and the constitution is violated by decrees dictated to suit transient needs."

The Radical leader gave a speech at a party dinner last night which brough together some 250 guests in the suburban locality of San Isidro. Leon also referred to the confrontation of his party with the commander of the III Army Corps, Cristino Nicolaides, and he asserted that "we are reaching the absurd situation where all those who demand the enforcement of the constitution are called subversives."

Leader Leopoldo Moreau also gave a speech at the dinner, and he mentioned that "Linedo's temporary presidency will open up a true devil's cauldron," although he qualified this event as "the anecdote, the flight over the crumbs of a power which no longer exists."

OFFICIAL DENIES RADIO, TV CENSORSHIP IN COUNTRY

PY232246 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Excerpt] The bids have been opened for the fifth public bidding procedure for the awarding of licenses for LR 9 Radio Antartida, LU 5 Radio Neuquen and three other radio stations. The ceremony was presided over by Gen (Rodolfo Peroglio), president of the Federal Broadcasting Council [CONFER].

The general referred to what he termed the systematic confusion campaign regarding a nonexisting censorship of radio and television. He added that the rumors to that effect are aimed at discrediting CONFER and said that there has not been nor will be any censorship and that it should or could not exist in any form under the rules of the national reorganization process.

ENVOY, MILITARY ATTACHE TO U.S. RETURN HOME

PY231824 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 23 Nov 81 p 9

[Excerpts] (NA) -- Argentine Ambassador to the United States Esteban Takacs and the military attache to his embassy, General Miguel Alfredo Mallea Gil, returned yesterday from Washington. Mallea Gil, who has been mentioned as a potential replacement for President Roberto Viola if the latter were unable to reassume the presidency, refused to make any comments upon arriving at Ezeiza International Airport.

Takacs, instead, told reporters on the scene that he had been called back by the Foreign Ministry for a "routine consultation," adding that, since the end of the year is near, "a little programming for the forthcoming months is in order."

Asked about a possible plan contemplating financial aid to Argentina by the U.S., the ambassador said: "I don't think any special plan is needed to rebuild the Argentine economy. Anyway, certainly not in those terms."

SOVIET UNION REPORTED MAIN BUYER OF GRAIN

PY231815 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 23 Nov 81 p 9

[Text] (NA) -- The USSR has become virtually the sole market for Argentine grains, buying up 80 percent of Argentine grain exports during the January/September period this year. Exports during the period were 19.3 million tons, of which the Soviets bought 15.1 million. The USSR bought 87 percent of Argentina's wheat exports, 88 percent of maize exports and 80 percent of its sorghum exports. Mexico came a very far second, buying 986,471 tons of grain, followed by Italy (612,709 tons), Holland (507,241 tons), Spain (452,180 tons) and Bolivia (327,419 tons). September grain exports totalled 1,430,466 tons, virtually all (87 percent) shipped to the USSR, which bought 1,246,032 tons.

BELIZE

PREMIER PRICE LEAVES ON VISIT TO MEXICO

PA231614 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1512 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Text] Belize, 23 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The official radio station Radio Belize reported today that Premier George Price has left for Mexico to hold talks with Mexican Government officials. The topics to be broached by Price in the Mexican capital were not disclosed.

BRIEFS

SUGAR OUTPUT -- Belmopan, Belize, 19 Nov (CANA) -- Belize expects a modest increase in sugar production from its next crop, reaping of which starts 4 December, industry officials said today. They projected output at 101,000 tons, slightly more than the 97,000 tons of the last season. The anticipated 4,000-ton increase in output reflects the start of a gradual recovery for the industry, which had been hard hit by a resurgence of frog hopper and smut diseases. The government and the privately run Belize Sugar Industries have assisted cane farmers with loans to the tune of more than 1.5 million dollars to rehabilitate their fields and there are now signs of recovery. [Bridgetown CANA in English 1803 GMT 19 Nov 81 FL]

EL SALVADOR

ARMY DISMANTLES GUERRILLA HOSPITAL IN CABANAS

PA232257 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 23 Nov 81 pp 8, 19

[Excerpt] A camp of the "Doctors Without Borders" organization was discovered by the army in Penas Blancas, Cabanas Department, on the border with Honduras.

According to the military reports, the camp was used to treat wounded terrorists. It is also possible that this same place served as a headquarters for the subversives.

The reports indicate that when the army staged the surprise attack, the terrorists fought back and suffered some 200 dead. The rest of the terrorists fled to nearby areas, possibly inside Honduras.

According to the reports, the Doctors Without Borders are of various nationalities and are particularly involved in the treatment of wounded terrorists. The reports do not identify the dead but it is said that many foreigners were killed.

The place known as "Penas Blancas" is high and overlooks the Chorrera del Guayabo hydroelectric dam. In their flight, the terrorists abandoned large-caliber weapons such as mortars and 105-mm cannons which were trained on the dam.

The military sources said that the destruction of this camp has been a harsh blow to the terrorists. The army confiscated medicine and food. Some of the supplies were marked with the name Caritas.

In the operation carried out in the middle of the week, airborne and ground troops participated. In the border area of Cabanas, the battles between the army and the terrorists lasted 1 week. They culminated with the dismantling of the hospital camp. A school camp was also found and dismantled. Sappers were trained there to place bombs on powerlines, buildings, bridges and so forth.

The militarymen are sure that on the Honduran border there are other terrorist camps. The terrorists call these areas "no man's land" in view of the past border dispute between El Salvador and Honduras.

FMLN REPORTS ANASTASIO AQUINO FRONT ACTIONS

PA232015 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1800 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Text] On 18 November, at the Apastepeque crossing in the San Vicente area, FMLN guerrillas of the Anastasio Aquino paracentral front ambushed a vehicle carrying troops in both uniforms and civilian dress. On the same day, in another ambush of soldiers and paramilitary Nationalist Democratic Organization troops, who were walking from Paloma Alta to San Vicente, six soldiers and four paramilitary troops were killed and many were wounded. Three G-3 rifles, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 1 M-2 carbine, 1 Czechoslovak rifle, 1 radio, 4 M-79 grenades, 3 G-3 rifle grenades, 20 G-3 cartridges, uniforms and other military materiel were recovered in this attack.

At 0500 on 19 November, guerrillas of San Pedro Hill in the paracentral front ambushed a military convoy composed of two pickups and one other truck transporting national guardsmen and members of the death squad, inflicting five deaths and numerous wounded. The attack was carried out on the road from San Sebastian to Santo Domingo. Among those killed was death squad criminal Rafael Rodriguez, known as El Chino. The FMLN retreated in order and without casualties.

BRIEFS

1982 NATIONAL BUDGET -- San Salvador, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The government's economic council today disclosed that the 1982 national budget totals $760 million and that the government junta will study it before approving it. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1547 GMT 19 Nov 81 PA]

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT OFFERS GUARANTEES TO REBELS FOR TALKS

PA231916 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Excerpt] Gen Benedicto Lucas Garcia, chief of the general staff, has reportedly told correspondents of international news agencies that the government has promised to bring to the capital guerrilla leaders who want to hold talks to seek a peaceful solution for the country. He has guaranteed that they will be returned to the mountains after the dialogue.

KIDNAPPERS RELEASE HEALTH MINISTER RECINOS

PA240317 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0110 GMT 24 Nov 81

[Text] Exactly at 1845 today, Dr Roquelino Recinos Mendez was released at the corner of 4th Street and 14th Avenue, in zone one [of Guatemala City], one block away from the newspaper EL GRAFICO. Roquelino Recinos Mendez went into the building that houses the morning paper and asked to speak to reporters. Right now he is talking to the press.

The minister of public health and social assistance spent exactly 85 days, or 2 months and 3 weeks, at the mercy of his kidnappers. Dr Recinos Mendez was kidnapped on Monday, 31 August 1981 after his car was intercepted by a clandestine group that still remains anonymous.

The health minister's relatives had to pay for advertisements in the papers. The first one was more than a month ago and the second one a week ago. It was also said that his relatives had apparently deposited money abroad in order to get Recinos Mendez' release. The amount paid is unknown.

Dr Roquelino Recinos Mendez, who spent 85 days in the hands of an ultraleftist clandestine group, was released today on the street corner where the newspaper EL GRAFICO is located. He was wearing beige pants and a brown sweater. His beard showed that he had not shaved in about a month. His weight, for which he was known, was considerably less than that when he was kidnapped. It can be said that he is no longer the same chubby man he used to be. One reporter said he thought the liberated Recinos Mendez looked haggard, but alive.

HONDURAS

SECURITY POLICE ARREST FPH MEMBERS IN RAID

PA232339 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Nov 81

[By Victor Antonio Handal]

[Excerpt] Following is the report published by TIEMPO, of San Pedro Sula, concerning the incident at the offices of the Union of Beverage Industry and Related Workers, STIBYS, [Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Industria de la Bebida y Similares]:

Last Saturday, agents of the National Investigations Directorate, DNI, armed with carbines, raided the STIBYS offices. They confiscated documents, mimeograph machines and other objects. They arrested several members of the Honduran Patriotic Front, FPH, including (Anibal Delgado Fiallos) and (Cristobal Perez), who are both running for congress. The raid led to a shooting incident at the (STIBYS) headquarters which is in Las Acacias sector, in the northeastern part of the city. The DNI agents started the shooting.

Among the others arrested are (William Isabel Castro), STIBYS secretary general and president of the San Pedro Sula headquarters; (Otilia Flores de Veras), FPH finance secretary and an employee of the regional university center of the north; (Elba Flores de Suazo) and another 14 people whose names were not available. It was learned that they are all members of the FPH.

(Delgado Fiallos) and (Perez) were released 20 minutes after their arrest.

Several of these people, such as sisters (Otilia) and (Elba Flores), were arrested at home by DNI agents. The operation started early in the morning and lasted until the afternoon.

BRIEFS

ROMANIAN OFFICIAL -- Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretary Cesar Elvir Sierra ignored normal procedures and received Nicolae Turturea, who has been appointed ministerial councillor and charge d'affaires of Romania in Honduras. Turturea is a very friendly diplomat who has not wasted his time since his arrival in Honduras and has already met with several Honduran ministers. [San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Nov 81 p 4 PA]

NICARAGUA

SERGIO RAMIREZ COMMENTS ON 'DIRECT LINE' PROGRAM

PA202220 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0220 GMT 20 Nov 81

["Direct Line" phone-in program featuring junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado with Wilfredo Lopez Valladares as moderator -- live]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] We have here a listener with the first question:

[Question] My name is (Mario Beteta). You are the only member of the government junta appointed after the victory of the revolution who is still in it. Don't you think you were the right person to replace Dr Arturo Cruz in Washington? Also why did the people from the private enterprise sector like Alfonso Robelo and Fletes have trouble at customs when leaving for Europe? Thank you very much.

[Answer] First of all, you are forgetting nothing less than the fact that Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the government junta, has been with me since the beginning of the junta. Therefore, I can tell you that two of us veterans from the initial government junta are still on it. In second place, the government junta is not an anteroom to the Nicaraguan Embassy in the United States. The fact that Dr Arturo Cruz was named to occupy that post was circumstantial. He had the ability to fill the post of ambassador to Washington and was so designated by the government junta. I like to stay in the country very much and will continue where I am.

On the other hand, when Mr Robelo -- who, by the way, is now on a political tour of Europe -- and other people were prevented from leaving the country, we explained that it was exclusively for administrative reasons. The did not have their travel documents in order and had to get new ones. All of them have now applied for new travel documents. Mr Robelo received a new passport and is now traveling freely throughout the world.

[Question] I am (Rene Cano) from the Santa Ana district. Dr Ramirez Mercado, I extend to you a fraternal revolutionary greeting. Regarding the great problem that has arisen at the northern border, why not conclude a good will agreement between the two governments and channel the situation constructively? My question is: Why can't joint vigilance be established at the northern border in such a way that Honduran guardsmen and members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] would jointly guard each side of the border? It would be sensational if this project could be carried out. What do you say?

[Answer] My dear companero, you have just hit the nail on the head, as they say. We proposed just that to Honduran President Policarpo Paz at the meeting he held with Commander Daniel Ortega at Guasaule a few months ago. We proposed that joint vigilance be established at the border, with the Honduran Army watching on their side and the EPS and our armed forces (?in general) on this side. It was agreed that this matter would be worked out at a meeting of defense ministers to be held later. Unfortunately, and not at our volition, this meeting of defense ministers has not been held. We have continued to insist that it be held.

Your idea is very good and we already had it in mind. This is what we specifically proposed. On the other hand, we are always after stability and peace with Honduras. No Nicaraguan wants to be at war with anyone. We have already paid the price of a war of liberation and no patriot in his right mind would imagine that a war will solve anything. We must seek peace in every sense, peace to work and to reconstruct the country. However, this must be peace with dignity and not a peace that will jeopardize our sovereignty or our right to move ahead with a revolutionary process.

That is why, as you will recall, a letter was published in the newspaper a few days ago. It was signed by Commander Ortega and addressed by the junta to President Paz. The letter reminded President Paz of all these issues, such as the fact that we want a stable and permanent peace wtih Honduras and that there are elements in Honduras who want to create tension at the border. The attacks at Guasaule are evidence of it. Somozist elements have infiltrated the area. Some people in the [Honduran] Army who do not have the support of President Paz are also bent on creating tension for reasons which are unknown to us. One reason may be because some people want to subvert the Honduran elections that are scheduled for late November. We do not know if this is true; however, it is said that some people do not want those elections and are trying to create trouble with Nicaragua as a pretext to keep the elections from being held.

These are domestic Honduran matters but we have to note them and tell you that we are indeed bent on seeking peace and will continue to do so.

[Question] I am Francisco Martinez from Matagalpa. Don't you think it is a serious mistake to allow the political parties to use the television channels? I am asking this question because the last time that (Angelita Zavallo) had Robelo as guest on her "In-Depth" program he did not abstain -- not even there -- from using his vulgar epithets against the mass organizations. Thank you, companero.

[Answer] Companero Francisco, your question is very important. We do not think that the fact that people who oppose the revolutionary government from various quarters and in line with their own interests have access to the television channels poses any danger to the people's revolutionary government of Nicaragua. The revolutionary leadership has pondered this matter and we are certain that this will help consolidate the climate of pluralism, which is a source of pride for our revolution.

Under the provisions of the bill on political parties, the legally established political parties will be able to publicize their programs and opinions on television, with the due respect expected of those presenting their ideas.

We are not afraid of ideas because we are right, and being right is what makes this revolution strong. The irrational and reactionary opinions and those opinions which try to cause this process to deviate will be neutralized themselves because the strength of our revolution lies in our upholding the truth and being right.

[Question] This is (Jacinto Porta Centeno) of [place name indistinct]. Good evening, Mr Sergio Ramirez Mercado. Regarding plans for domestic policy, what measures will the revolutionary government take regarding the rejection of the decree on the law of political parties by the reactionary parties?

[Answer] Well, as our people know, the FSLN through its State Council representatives took the initiative in presenting a bill on Nicaraguan political parties. The revolution wants to institutionalize and legalize all the political parties in the country, regardless of their ideology. We must make two distinctions here: first, the initiative as such. The State Council must discuss a plan for the function of political parties in the country. Second, the bill that has been presented by the FSLN delegation. We feel that the FSLN delegation has no intentiom of being closeminded about this and of insisting that should the bill not be approved there will be no law on political parties. On the contrary, the State Council is a democratic forum where all proposals are discussed.

The parties that don't approve of the FSLN proposal can present ammendments and additions or they can make other proposals to the State Council. They can be sure that their proposals will be discussed at the State Council in a democratic way. But I believe that it cannot be said that this is a useless, ineffective and restrictive law, as I have heard some people saying outside the State Council. They have said that instead of helping us progress, this law is pulling us backwards. These opinions must be expressed in the State Council. This matter is not something that will be settled overnight. The FSLN is in no rush to impose a law on political parties.

On the contrary, this proposal must be discussed calmly, with serenity and maturity. It must be studied.

In accordance with the law, the State Council will recess on 4 December but I am sure that, if necessary, the junta would agree to extend the State Council's session in order to continue discussing this bill so that the best possible law can be agreed upon with the contribution of all the people and of the political parties. Their participation would contribute to make it a better bill. What is at stake here is the determination of the FSLN and of the Sandinist revolutionary government to have the best possible law on political parties in Nicaragua, one that will be effective nationwide.

[Moderator] By the way, Dr Ramirez Mercado, we find that in this evening's issue, LA PRENSA reports that the stunned reaction of the self-styled democratic parties has been varied. Some parties see this law as a positive step, while others maintain that it is a law to control the political parties because it requires that each party disclose the number of its members and amount of its dues.

The newspaper of the past states that Adan Fletes -- who has never been known to see any good in the revolution -- has declined to give an opinion; but, to quote LA PRENSA, Fletes showed no optinism with regard to the draft bill. We also see here that the newpaper's editorial states: Now, on learning some of the details of that draft bill and on learning of some of the official comments on the subject, we realize that what is really being proposed is another backward step in our revolution, another deviation from the basic content of the revolution and a retrogression toward principles that are totalitarian in flavor, the editorial continues.

[Answer] That is an opinion. I consider it an opinion of LA PRENSA. Ysterday that newspaper announced in a large-type headline: Freedom for Political Parties. It showed positive enthusiasm. Yet today it expresses opposition to the draft bill. However, I consider this an indication of the diversity of opinions that exist here.

The important thing is that the FSLN had taken the initiative. In response, the various parties should make statements and give their opinions. The important thing is that the initiative is valid.

Just as the LA PRENSA editoral-page article that you are showing me contains one opinion, on the other side there is an editorial signed by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios that we cannot fail to describe as positive because it approaches from a nationalistic viewpoint the fact that the United States plans to block a $33-million loan that we had requested from the IDB to help replace our fishing fleet.

We believe that the approach taken by LA PRENSA in the article signed by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios is positive and constructive. We belive that it takes a nationalistic position. It states that the U.S. Government seems to be planning another economic attack upon us.

Therefore, on the same page, we find two very different opinions on different topics. However, I insist that the law on political parties will be debated in the State Council. Any debate outside the State Council will be useless. The important thing is for the political parties which have representatives on the State Council to discuss that law there and enrich and improve it so that the law that emerges will be the best possible law.

[Moderator] Forgive me for insisting, but it can be deduced from the reports contained in this afternoon's LA PRENSA that a joint declaration -- if we judge from the statements made by some members of those dissident parties -- will apparently be directed against the political parties law.

[Answer] This would be very unfortunate. I would prefer to await this declaration. I would not recommend that any political group in the country -- any group that would like to participate in the democratic interplay that is being organized here, the interplay that is being institutionalized -- withdraw from the arena beforehand.

This opportunity which the revolution is providing is a good chance to institutionalize the democratic process in Nicaragua. I insist that the political parties, whatever their ideological persuasion or orientation, whether or not they oppose the revolution, should participate in an in-depth discussion of this draft bill. If they wish, they should present their own proposals to the State Council, or present amendments, revisions or additions so that this law on political parties may contribute to the goal pursued by the FSLN: the institutional stabilization of the revolutionary process.

[Question] Good evening, Companero Ramirez. I would like to ask whether the plan known as the political plan of the revolution envisions the existence of the bourgeoisie for an indefinite period or if the time will come when the bourgeoisie will be eliminated. Thank you.

[Answer] We must again explain the revolutionary plan. I think that it is worthwile to be reminded of these things so that we can always keep them in mind.

On 19 July 1979, a revolutionary change took place here. It was a revolutionary change because political power was held by Somoza for the benefit of a minority. This political power was turned over to a broad majority: the workers, the peasants, the small and medium landowners, the honest professionals and technicians in the country, all the groups from which political power had been withheld for so long.

These new forces that, led by the FSLN, emerged with the revolutionary armed victory, defined a new way of governing and leading the country, which is by means of a popular revolution with very profound consequences. The changes that have been made here have been enormous and far-reaching and have altered the nature of this society.

But one of the characteristics of this revolution is also its pluralism. What does this mean? It means that the sectors which formerly had all the privileges in this country also have a place in this political revolutionary plan.

This means that if these sectors of monied people, of people who in the past through their economic power also had political power -- unlike the present, when economic power certainly does not represent political power -- if these persons want to organize a political party to defend their interests, and other groups that are not identified with the great majority that the FSLN represents also want to form parties, then they have the right to do so.

The business groups, the capitalists, also have a right to organize and to present their positions, but not as they did in the past. In the past, the workers, the peasants, the laborers, the popular forces, represented a political minority. They were the ones who had the smallest share in this society. Now, the workers have the majority share. And this is not a matter that was decided in a circumstantial way; it was decided by a war that was difficult and long as well as costly in lives and property. That war radically changed this country; it transformed this country, which is no longer the same. It cannot be said it is the same country. This is another, totally different Nicaragua. (?We have) a new and different Nicaragua, which has a new form of social organization, because we are living in a revolutionary process. Nobody can cover the sun with one finger. Also, the capitalists, the parties which are not identified with the revolution, whatever their size, have a right to participation and the revolution guarantees this right to them. The revolution will continue guaranteeing it to them.

[Question] This is Mauricio Diaz Morales of the Altagracia neighborhood in Managua. Good evening, Dr Ramirez. My question refers to the first statements made by bourgeois politicians regarding the law on political parties. For example, Mr Adan Fletes said today that 8 of 14 articles of the decree are totalitarian. I would like to ask if these rightist parties grouped in the coordinating board [not further identified] have a chance to participate somehow in the debate on the law, and how they can do it, whether in the State Council or outside the council.

Perhaps I am referring to a second analysis which you may make regarding the contradictions of the parties, because the Deomcratic Conservative Party [PCD] is announcing it is going to the State Council, and other parties have not said anything. What can you tell me in this regard?

[Answer] I would like to insist on what I had already said before. It seems to me very important that this issue be brought up. No matter how adverse the opinions of some groups or political parties against the draft law on parties presented by the FSLN, nothing is gained by voicing these opinions outside the State Council. It is necessary to oppose this law in the State Council. And here, we consider very positive the PCD's announcement that it is going to joing the State Council, that th PCD will go there to discuss the law. As I recall, the PCD previously introduced a bill. It only has to dust that bill off and present it to the State Council so that it may also be discussed.

But the persons or goups that are thinking that it is time to boycott this very important FSLN initiative are not only making a mistake, but they are making a dangerous mistake. To close this possibility, to refuse to discuss a law on parties at this moment would be to demonstrate who are not interested in our conducting the institutional, democratic interaction to which we aspire. They would demonstrate that they are not interested in the Sandinist revolution finding the path which we are seeking through the law on parties, but are simply interested in shooting, like a sniper, at the revolution to see if these shots produce ruin, chaos and end the possibilities of the revolution. Those who think this way are deceived; they are totally wrong. This revolution is indestructible. This revolution is defining an institutional framework for pluralist operation and people must assume a constructive attitude so that political institutionalization, this participation of parties, may occur. People should not assume attitudes to stop this institutional process or to waylay it.

[Question] My name is (Mauricio Vanegas). I live in (Maximo Heredia) neighborhood in Managua. My question deals with the bill on political parties. I understand that the State Council will discuss the bill, so the bougeois politicians will have to return to the State Council to defend their interests regarding this bill. However, there are parties which are not legally represented at the State Council, such the Social Democratic Party, PSD; the Communist Party; and the People's Action Movement, MAP. I would like to know how these parties are going to take part in discussing the bill.

[Answer] First of all, the State Council will have to pass the bill because the State Council is our legislative body. It is the legislative body of the revolution in charge of discussing bills. We are not interested in another way of legislating. Anyone who wants to participate in the debate on this bill must do so through the State Council. It is true that the parties you just mentioned are not members of the State Council. But the possibility that these parties as well as others that may be organized in the future can be admitted to the State Council and recognized as legal political parties, is not closed.

[Question] Good evening, Companero Ramirez Mercado. My name is (Alberto Gutierrez). I live in the (Villa Panama) neighborhood. I would like to know if what LA PRENSA says is true: that in Costa Rica you said that your political ideology is social democratic?

[Answer] I appreciate your question, because it will serve to clear things up once for all. As a matter of fact, yesterday in LA PRENSA I did read an item from the German news agency, DPA, datelined Costa Rica, in which the DPA correspondent said that I told him that I had met with Luis Alberto Monge, the presidential candidate of the social democrates and National Liberation Party, because I was also a social democrat. This is not true. I never was interviewed by DPA. The reason for the news distortion was that during the new conference in which there were more than 100 newmen, when they asked me about my meeting with presidential candidate Luis Alberto Monge, I said that the National Liberation Party is a party with which the PSLN, of which I am a member, had had relations for years.

I said that during the war, we received political support from the National Liberation Party, and that there are international organizations whose meetings both the National Liberation Party and the FSLN attend. An example is the Socialist International, in which the FSLN participates as an observer, although we are not members. Also the National Liberation Party and the FSLN are members of the Coordination of Political Parties of Latin America, COPDAL, which has its headquarters in Mexico. Commander Tomas Borge is the vice president of that organization. That is what I said and that is where this correspondent got his news. This is part of the tactic used by those opposed to our revolution. They like to label the Sandinists. They tell lies about us so that we will take the trouble to deny them. Why? Maybe they expect me to say that I am not a social democrat [words indistinct] because that is the story they are telling now. I simply repeat what I have always said: I am a Sandinist. I am a member of the FSLN and, apart from any official post I hold, I am proud to be a member of the FSLN because membership is a right which must be earned.

[Question] Good evening, my name is (Marco Baez) from (Santa Rosa) neighborhood. I would like to know what measures the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has taken with regard to the state of economic and national emergency, in view of the offensive that some reactionary sectors are promoting. An example is Mr Robelo. After his trip to Venezuela some international news media reported that the economic aid to Nicaragua would be suspended. In case what these gentlemen abroad are saying becomes fact, what measures is the Nicaraguan Government going to take?

[Answer] We have not heard anything lately about Robelo asking in Venezuela for the suspension of economic aid to Nicaragua. Apparently, it has to do with something he said months ago. However, we have heard a man who claims to be Nicaraguan. His name is Jose Esteban Gonzalez and he was in Rome. He likes to travel abroad saying things such as you mentioned. He likes to talk about totalitarianism and spread other stories against the revolution, which he says should not be given any aid. Fortunately, Commander Jaime Wheelock, who is on an official visit to Europe, arrived after Jose Esteban Gonzalez and denied all those lies. I say, fortunately, because Jose Esteban Gonzalez' prestige cannot be compared to that of Commander Wheelock who is a member of the FSLN National Directorate and a leader of the revolution. Jose Esteban Gonzalez has said that he will not return to Nicaragua. I think he would be doing us a favor.

[Question] I am (Maria Ortega) from Managua. I would like to ask Ramirez Mercado if the revolutionary government considers that with the so-called northern triangle the imperialists have achieved their greatest degree of organization which will allow them to launch a military operation against our country? I have another question: Does our revolutionary government anticipate an imperialist threat to our country which will paralyze our industrial production to a large extent?

[Answer] Imperialism's effort to implement this so-called northern triangle consolidation has been a failure so far because they have not managed to get the Honduran Army to accept it. To form a triangle they need Honduras as well as the Armies of El Salvador and Guatemala. So far, Honduras has maintained its neutrality and has said that it will not participate with El Salvador and Guatemala in any aggressive plan against Nicaragua. It is true that we have border problems with Honduras, the Guasaule problem. We have said that the Honduran Government presided over by Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia is not responsible for this problem. Among the high-ranking officials of the Honduran Government there are persons interested in having a climate of stability and cordiality in Central America. So far, only a minority in the Honduran Army which has an aggressive attitude favors an alliance with the Armies of El Salvador and Guatemala. Therefore, we ought to assume a positive attitude in this respect. No aggression against Nicaragua can be carried out by the Armies of El Salvador and Guatemala without Honduras' participation, because our border in the north is with Honduras. They would have to cross Honduras to attack us and they would need Honduran approval to do so.

We should consider any northern triangle a real threat. We must not lower our guard in defense of the nation. This is a very complicated issue. I do not see how the Salvadoran Army can think about action against Nicaragua when it has such a problem in its own territory. The same can be said about Guatemala. In those two countries a revolutionary war is in progress. The Salvadoran and Guatemalan Armies must give a lot of attention to these wars which are growing stronger each day. I must repeat: We cannot lower our guard. We must be on the alert and whenever one of these generals makes a threat, we must be on guard.

[Question] My name is (Jose Martin Correa Cepeda) and I am calling from the Boaco Sandinist police station. I have a question regarding the political organization and the bill on parties. Article 6 notes that any group of citizens can form a political party; however, it says that a party cannot function as such unless it has been given legal status and that if this provision is violated one would incur [words indistinct].

[Answer] I do not know if you are referring to the bill that the FSLN delegation submitted to the State Council. That is not a law of the republic, companero. It has not even been discussed in the State Council. It is merely a bill which will probably not be approved exactly as it was originally presented. According to what you have said, the intent is to say that only the legally recognized parties can operate. What does that mean? Anywhere in the world it means that in order to become a political party, a group must be lawfully registered, a specific number of sympathizers must be presented, a board of directors or high authority must be elected, the statutes for that party must be drafted and a political platform must be prepared. For example, there could be no party in Nicaragua whose political platform says that it will promote the country's division. For example, there would be no party which said that it recognized that Colombia owns San Andres and Providencia. These would be parties which will go against the country's sovereignty and this could not be permitted. There could be no party which said that blacks are inferior, for example, because racism cannot be tolerated. We could not have a party which said that it honors the memory of Gen Anastasio Somoza; we could not accept that. Consequently, a party has to define its platform and activities. We could not have a party here whose president was that gentleman Urcuyo [referring to Francisco Urcuyo, anti-Sandinist figure and leader of the Nicaraguan Liberal Party in exile]. For this reason, we need a new law to regulate the operation of political parties. We could not have a party here which recongized the validity of the Chamorro-Bolanos Treaty, for example. Therefore, we need a law on parties and this is what we are promoting through the FSLN delegation before the State Council. The rules under which the parties will work have not been defined yet. This must be discussed at the State Council.

[Question] Good evening, [words indistinct] sovereingty over the Roncador and Quitasueno Cays [passage indistinct].

[Answer] We have already said and we will always continue to say this: The cays of Serrana, Roncador, Quitasueno and (Serrania), as well as the islands of San Andres and Providencia, are Nicaraguan territories located in our national waters. They are a part of Nicaragua's continental shelf. We are not only claiming sovereignty over those islets, cays and islands but over that entire part of our territorial sea, which is an integral part of our fatherland and our nation. The official Nicaragua map that the geographic institute is currently printing and which it will disseminate next year, includes all these islands, islets and cays as part of our national territory. This map will be used in the schools. Everybody must take it into account and must know that this is the national map. We have not planned to take this matter to an international court. Instead, we have urged the Colombian Government to discuss this matter bilaterally with us. We will not stop proclaiming our national sovereignty over these territories.

[Moderator] In the past few days we have been working in the dispatch department, where the teletypes print out the mass of information we receive about the U.S. leaders' threats against Central America and Cuba. When we say Central America, we mean our country. Mr Haig has been noted for making such statements.

Our impression over the past few weeks has been that we are almost on the verge of an aggression, that is, that we are facing the possibility of an imminent aggression. On this occasion, Dr Ramirez Mercado, I would like you to explain to us how much of this thing, of this campaign against Nicaragua, involves the risk of an upcoming aggression against our country, and whether under the current circumstances Venezuela President Herrera Campins' statements in and visit to Washington have helped dissuade the U.S. leaders from attacking Central America.

[Answer] I think President Herrera Campins' visit to Washington can be regarded as positive, for if we analyze the reports on his visit, we see that U.S. President Reagan kept trying to commit President Herrera Campins by having him make statements about his support for possible interferences or interventions in Central America. President Herrera Campins always rejected any form of intervention or interference in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Cuba. We think this is important. We regard this an something positive that helps [words indistinct] this aggressive climate which the hawks -- as the most radical rightwing elements within the Reagan administration are called -- have sought to create against Central America and against Nicaragua.

We cannot say that the threat of an aggression has ended. Neither can we say that a military aggression can be expected only in the form of a disembarkment of marines in Nicaragua. Aggression can come in various forms. For instance, they might seek to isolate us economically. They might seek to close the markets for our products in the United States. They might seek to suspend our pending loans from the Inter-American Development Bank or from other banks. (?There has also been talk of) a naval blockade against Nicaragua [words indistinct] that famous northern triangle. This would be yet another way of preparing an aggression against our country.

Whenever we talked about our defense needs, in Costa Rica, I would tell newsmen that if we did not know there are risks of aggression against our revolution and against our fatherland, we would not even have an army. At the most we would have traffic police and policemen to control the drunkards and thieves out in the streets. However, that is not our reality. The reality is that aggression exists and that a revolution can never lower its guard because it would be left at the mercy of its enemies. In the face of the threats of aggression coming from a country like the United States, which has the power to fulfill [words indistinct], and as long as those threats do not disappear, a constant element of this revolution and our patriotic obligation is to remain vigilant and to maintain our combative attitude. We must also expand our diplomatic and political fronts, for this helps prevent this kind of intervention.

Of course, the United States does not have everything necessary on its side to attack or intervene against us. We have the friendship of several countries. We have the friendship of socialist, Arab and Western European countries. We have the friendship of countries such as Mexico and Venezuela, which have acted conscientiously toward our revolution. As long as this framework of relationships remains open, as long as there are countries in the world which support our process and our revolution, the danger that the United States will invade us decreases. This does not mean, however, that if they consider the conditions right they will not go ahead and do it. Neither can we say, as some people here say, that there is no need to pay any mind to Haig, that he talks too much, that we should not answer him in the same tone of voice because that makes matters worse. Those are not patriotic arguments. We could never adopt a defensive position even in a verbal war. That would be tantamount to accepting that everything they say, that all the lies they tell, are true. (?Haig) says that 600 Cuban soldiers went on from here to destroy the Oro Bridge and that red and black planes (?have dropped weapons in) El Salvador. Those lies gradually grow and [word indistinct], until they become a big lie. They take advantage of the effect which those lies create among the world's public. They are trying to create the right climate so that they may attack us at will. However, it is not the broad range of alliances that we may have throughout the world or the many countries which support us and maintain good relations with us that will help us prevent an invasion.

What helps most to prevent an invasion is the knowledge that we have the will to reply to those aggressions; the knowledge that all Nicaraguans are firmly determined to defend the national sovereignty and the revolution and to prevent an attack on this country; the knowledge that we will fight to defend the last inch of our territory if such an aggression takes place.

We want to point out as positive the fact that certain forces opposed to the revolutionary process -- which on other occasions have sided [words indistinct], which on other occasions have assumed virulent, intransigent and stubborn positions against the revolution -- have now voiced their views in opposition to Haig's interventionist attitudes and threats. For example, there is the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP. (?Today I read in the press) a COSEP communique rejecting Haig's threats and stands. We must mention this.

[Moderator] It is too bad that the communique is so laconic.

[Answer] We do not agree with most of what COSEP says. They oppose the process from ultraconservative positions. Yet, in their communique they acknowledge that they are Nicaraguans and they have assumed a patriotic stand. Other sectors which in the past had voiced their opposition to these interferences, to these aggressions, have done the same. We must understand that this contributes to the national unity. For what good is national unity if not to defend ourselves from aggression and to present an anti-imperialist stand?

[Moderator] Within that framework, Companero Ramierez Mercado, I would like you to answer those who harbor hopes about the arrival of marines here. You are familiar with our country's history and have written a book about Sandino. You know about the resistance that any interventionist has always found among our people upon landing in Nicaragua. People think that the balance of forces would be very unfavorable, that it would be difficult for our organized people to resist one, two or three U.S. divisions. What can you say to this? They make a gross comparison between the U.S. military power and our military weakness and they claim that any form of resistance would be useless if Haig managed to convince the Pentagon that it is necessary to invade our country.

[Answer] I don't like to answer hypothetical questions because the answers are always hypothetical. I think that we should hope that such a situation never arises. Why? Because should the United States invade us -- well, of course, its force is 100,000 times bigger than our military force -- our moral force is 100,000 times greater. However, that would not keep this country from being destroyed. We would fight to the last man, defending our sovereignty even at the cost of our country's survival. That is the decision and the political will of all honest and patriotic Nicaraguans who are listening to me at this moment. I know that deep in their hearts [words indistinct] Nicaragua is before anything else -- the country's integrity, the respect we have won as a free people. That can never be placed on a scale. We will never negotiate that. We will never cede the respect for and sovereignty of our country.

Unfortunately, there were military occupations in the past. It was up to the poor, unshod and humble people, up to Sandino's ragged army and the peasant soldiers of Zeledon to defend national sovereignty. And they defended it when the people who had economic and political power in this country took the side of the interventionists, I consider that a national disgrace. There were people here who took the interventionists' side, and threw parties for the navy officers in their homes and invited them to their social clubs. They were pleased that the marines visited their homes. Psychologically, they were a part of that interference. They identified more closely with the interventionists than with the nation. Sandino's poor Indians and peasants were alone in the mountains defending national sovereignty [words indistinct] against a power that was 100,000 times greater than that of Sandino's (?soldiers). But what happened in the end? The marines had to leave and Sandino won this war. He won the liberation war and they were defeated not only militarily but politically as well, for they gradually became isolated and they realized that it was senseless to be [word indistinct] in a such small country, exhibiting themselves before the world.

If they intervene in our country now, to what do we aspire? We want all Nicaraguans, without distinction of social class or economic condition, to take the side of the nation. Now, if unfortunately -- and we are still speaking hypothetically -- some Nicaraguans choose the interventionists' side, that would be terrible. Up to this point, however, we see that we are achieving national unity against that interventionist attitude. That is the positive aspect which we must note, rather than speaking about the hypothetical situation that would result if somebody took the opposite side. Instead, we must say that all the sectors which have voiced their views are against intervention and against Mr Haig's bold statements. That is what matters at this point and what gives strength to our country, to our nation, to Nicaragua.

CORDOVA RIVAS INTERVIEWED BY LA PRENSA'S CHAMORRO

Part One

PA221240 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Nov 81 pp 1, 7

[Part one of three-part interview with Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, by LA PRENSA codirector Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] You recently told EL NUEVO DIARIO that all governments had the right to close newspapers. Would you justify having this government, of which you are a prominent member, close down LA PRENSA completely for any reason?

[Answer] That is a hypothetical question. In reality, it would not do any good to completely close down LA PRENSA. The fact that I said that governments have the right to close newspapers has more of a practical meaning than a legal meaning.

Some papers are shut down arbitrarily, others legally and others are forced into bankruptcy as they do in the United States. In the United States, newspapers do not go bankrupt, but the publishing houses do; then they proceed to close the newspaper. In some countries, that have paper quotas, they simply take away the quota and in that way the paper has to stop operations anyhow. In other words, closing newspapers is like a valve in the hands of governments. In some countries, closing a newspaper seems like a totalitarian action. There are countries in which the method is more intricate or more Machiavellian: They bankrupt the company; the paper is shut down; the paper quota taken away; workers are lured or sent to another newspaper with better wages.

[Question] During a recent interview with Radio Noticias' Radio Information newscast, you called other political parties minor parties; you also said that the only worthwhile dialogue would be between the FSLN and the Conservative Democratic Party. Is this opinion related to the efforts currently in progress for a national dialogue for a true national unity?

[Answer] Exactly. The only forces that exist in the country are the FSLN and the Conservative Party, because the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, MDN, is a party resulting from present circumstances. The Social Democratic Party is a party tailor-made to the image of Wilfredo Montalvan. They measured his waist, 38 inches, his back and arms. It is a tailored-made party. The Social Christian Party is a party with a great future. No doubt it has power, ideology and international support. I have nothing to say about the other parties. In reality, however, the only two forces here are the FSLN and the Conservative Party.

It is logical and natural, because it is not that the Conservative Party is opposed to the FSLN, but it challenges it. Besides, whenever the Conservative Party makes an alliance, it loses members. The Social Democratic Party is the offspring of the Conservative Party, so is the Social Christian Party.

Part Two

PA221313 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Nov 81 pp 1, 5

[Part two of three-part interview with Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the junta of the Government National Reconstruction, by LA PRENSA codirector Pedro Joaquin Chamorro; date and place not given]

[Question] You have often said that the logical aftermath of a revolution is a personal dictatorship. Do you think we have arrived at that moment?

[Answer] We should have had a personal dictatorship long ago. We need a dictatorship here, be it from the right, center, or left; because the revolution obeys sociological laws. One of these laws is that there must be a dictatorship after every revolution, and I believe this revolution has not ended; it is beginning.

[Question] Do you mean that we are increasingly nearing the point of needing a personal dictatorship?

[Answer] Yes. It has been needed for quite some time. It should be done as soon as possible. We should have a strong central authority that must be obeyed. It must be energetic and not forgive many mistakes.

Some experts have just presented a report claiming that we cannot demand too much efficiency from workers because then there would be unemployment. I have never heard anything so stupid, and this has been stated by the experts. They claim that if we demand efficiency from workers, there will be unemployment. I replied that this is the same argument about mechanized techniques and manual labor that has been going on for 200 years. It has not yet scientifically been proved whether it is better for a country to modernize all its industry with machines, harvesters, planters, and so on, or to do it by hand. I believe that mechanization is better because it sets in motion other types of work for other people. However, to say that to demand efficiency from workers will cause unemployment is a monstrosity.

[Question] Don't you think that Soviet imperialism often acts under the guise of "internationalism of the proletariat?"

[Answer] I don't believe that Soviet imperialism acts under any guise. Soviet imperialism is a reality. The difference between Soviet imperialism and U.S. imperialism is that the latter exploits us and Soviet imperialism does not. Besides, this is an old story. We have always been subjected to U.S. imperialism, as well as Spanish imperialism. We were subject to British imperialism on the Atlantic coast in 1700. We were subject to U.S. imperialism from 1850 until 19 July 1979, when we shook off the U.S. imperialist yoke.

Soviet imperialism is a historical and geographical question, and not a matter of exploitation. The "real politic" or the pragmatic reality of Soviet imperialism has not yet completed its cycle, because, until it reaches the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, Russia will always be an expansionist power. However, those countries [not further identified] have been within Russia for, I won't say 1,000 years, but some have been voluntarily part of the USSR for the last 600, 700 or 800 years. Perhaps some of them were included against their will, but now they are voluntarily within the USSR. The difference with capitalist imperialism is that it does not absorb a country geographically, but economically; and sucks its blood as long as it can. It is a continuous exploitation of natural resources. I don't believe that Russia does that to any country. That is why it has been able to maintain its influence in East Europe, because it does not exploit any country.

[Question] Do you think that friendship and cooperation between Nicaragua and the United States is needed to stimulate development in Nicaragua, or do you think that we don't need the friendship or the United States?

[Answer] Not only do we need that friendship and cooperation, we are working on a bill on foreign investment, so that honest U.S. businessmen can come to cooperate with us, to invest in Nicaragua. We are putting the finishing touches on that law on foreign investment. I believe that the United States was wrong in suspending our loans and in leaving. There is a law of physics. If I take something from here from the place it is occupying, and I put it somewhere else, something has to fill that space. Some matter, be it solid, liquid, or gas, will have to fill that space. That is what is happening in Nicaragua. The United States is acting tough and sticking its head in the sand like an ostrich. It should have stayed here. It should have been more cordial and realized that we are not one of its states. We are not Connecticut, Florida, North Carolina or Arizona. We are a free sovereign, independent, and self-determining country, even though we are the size of a coffee cup.

[Question] Expanding on our last question, you said that this friendship and cooperation are necessary. What constructive steps could the two parties adopt, or is too late to attain harmony?

[Answer] No. Frankly, I think that we can still achieve harmony, but within respect. Look at what happened with the talks with Enders. The talks were proceeding fine. Everything was going along fine. All of a sudden, they send us a letter from Enders through the representative of the embassy, Mr Roger Gamble. In the letter they asked when were we going to issue a joint declaration, if we could get together on the final terms of the declaration, and so on; but on the next page they said that the $7-million loan had been canceled. This reminded me of a letter of condolence on the death of your beloved wife. She was a beautiful, God-fearing lady; at the same time I want to remind you of the 100,000 cordobas that you owe me, and that you haven't paid me any interest during the last 6 months."

This of course was a tremendous lack of tact and diplomacy. Our relations have begun to deteriorate a little. In addition to the lies the United States are saying, they are saying that 600 Cubans specially trained for El Salvador passed through here. If 600 Cubans had passed through here, it would be like black coffee in a cup of milk. It would darken the milk. You could see the black coffee, much less 3,000 like the other savage said.

[Question] That is true. I completely agree with it.

[Answer] Then what happened when Fidel Castro said: Give me proof, and they couldn't give him proof. Nicaragua has also asked for proof and they cannot give it either.

[Question] Do you feel that during the first year of the revolution, when the Sandinist government received ample U.S. aid, it meant they wanted a clean slate? Why didn't the government continue to implement this new type of relations with the United States?

[Answer] Yes. I feel that U.S. aid was remarkable during the 1st year of the revolution. I even think that it reached $160 million, for which we are very grateful. What happened is that the United States probably thought that the terms of the aid were the same as before.

The truth is the following: The boys [los muchachos] of the FSLN had been welcomed, educated, supported and given jobs for them and their families in Cuba, Russia and the OLEP [expansion not given]; and when the United States would learn that any of them were going from Nicaragua to Cuba, on their stopover in Mexico, the CIA would report: "So and so is going to Cuba," and he would be arrested. Things were the opposite then; the United States was after them. It reported where they were so that they could be arrested. The United States would send their names from Russia, so that when they returned they would be put in jail. Therefore, these people have to show their appreciation somehow and have demonstrated it very well, with the friendship with Cuba mainly and with countries such as Libya, which gave us $100 million without signing the papers until a month after they were signed [as published], and this must be appreciated.

These people logically are thankful to those who helped them in these countries before the victory and after the victory. Therefore, the United States finds itself with a difficult problem: On the one hand, it has to see that these people remain within the geopolitical area of Central America, and on the other, it has to face the fact that they have to be grateful to those who helped them. This is logical, natural and human. Anybody can understand that.

[Question] Would you say that Ambassador Pezzullo was a sympathizer of the Sandinist revolution?

[Answer] Yes, I believe he was a sympathizer, but within his U.S. nationality, his integrity of a U.S. ambassador and his concepts of the highest values of a U.S. citizen. However, I believe that Lawrence sympathized with Sandinism. I think that he was the only one the junta and the government understood. You could see it in his face that he was a sympathizer. I understood that he was a sumpathizer of Sandinism.

There was an anecdote here which was very funny. When he came to tell us about the situation of the $15 million, which the junta already knew about, it seems that he was afraid to tell us, so he spoke of other things. They did not tell us until after it was published in LA PRENSA that the $15 million had been suspended. But my belief is, as we the peasants say, that he did not dare break the news personally.

Part Three

PA221413 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Nov 81 pp 1, 6

[Part three of three-part interview with Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, by LA PRENSA codirector Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios; date and place not given]

[Question] Dr Rafael Cordova, if LA PRENSA...(at this point Dr Cordova interrupts the question).

[Answer] LA PRENSA is the paper with the largest circulation. It is the best newspaper in Nicaragua, although I am not going to say that the others are not as good.

[Question] Do you think that LA PRENSA is an anti-Sandinist newspaper, an enemy of Sandinism?

[Answer] Well, one can't say. I don't know what an "enemy of Sandinism" is.... What happens is that its editorial page is a disaster, like the editorial pages in BARRICADA and in EL NUEVO DIARIO. The editorial pages in these three newspapers are not read. Nobody reads them because they include a lot of theological [as published] items and "idols" of interest to no one.

An article on artificial insemination was published in LA PRENSA's editorial page the other day and everybody read it. What a strange phenomenon that was. Nobody read Humberto Belli's religious issues or anything else, only the article on insemination. Everybody was talking about the article on insemination. In other words, people attribute no importance to those three editorial pages.

They are no good. Thet are boring, graceless and do not present things correctly. One can see there is a terrible sectarianism, yet 80 to 90 percent of the people in this country aren't sectarian and care nothing about the editorial pages in either LA PRENSA, BARRICADA or EL NUEVO DIARIO.

[Question] If you agree with the law on political parties, with which I too completely agree, what obstacles are there to this law, if the Sandinist government itself has already said on countless occasions that it is a "pluralist" government?

[Answer] I think that at bottom the single party's sectarian tendency is preventing the passage of the law on political parties.

[Question] Do you believe, then, that there is a tendency within the Sandinist Party to form a single party?

[Answer] Of course, there is a clear ultraleftist tendency. Several individuals are imprisoned right now....

[Question] Yes, but those in prison are members of CAUS [Labor Action and Unity Federation].

[Answer] Yes, but within Sandinism there are still several infiltrated CAUS members and...there are also Somozists.

[Question] Is it possible to have an "Antarctic" economy without substantial aid from the West? In other words, do you think it is feasible for the socialist camp to replace the massive economic contributions that Nicaragua has traditionally received from the West?

[Answer] Well, the truth is that there is great injustice, because the industrialized countries do not pay the right prices for our products. They rob us shamelessly; they pay low prices for our coffee; they pay a low price for our cotton and they pay a low price for our sugar. On the other hand, the prices of cars, tractors, bicycles, motorcycles, typewriters, machineguns, rifles and bazookas, the price of everything goes up; except that of coffee, sugar, cotton, rice, the things we produce.

[Question] In other words, the terms of trade are deteriorating?

[Answer] Right. So long as there is no justice in the matter of international prices, we should regard all those people as our enemies. They are not our friends; that is a lie.

[Question] Do you think the Soviet Union could give us a better price?

[Answer] Well, it does give better prices and undoubtedly it sometimes gives good prices on its machines.

[Question] We all know, however -- and this has been confirmed in countries, like Costa Rica and Colombia -- that Soviet machinery does not have the same quality as that used in the West. Soviet machinery is inexpensive, but it is of poor quality.

[Answer] Well, I don't know much about machinery, but I do know that one of the things that Russia is accused of in the report on arms in Europe is that it has 24,000 AT-44 tanks. If they were bad, Americans would not need to worry.

[Question] Oh, yes, Russia manufactures good weapons. There is absolutely no doubt about that. What I am asking, however, is whether it manufactures tractors that are as good as those manufactured by John Deere or Caterpillar.

[Answer] Maybe not that good. That is like what happens with Colgate toothpaste. When a kid enters a store he does not say give me some toothpaste. He says give me a Colgate tube. Some people buy a brand, but they are good tractors.

[Question] Do you think that Marxism-Leninism can be established in a country by means of democratic, broad, open and free elections or do you think that Marxism-Leninism can be implemented only by force.

[Answer] No. I think socialist regimes can be established by means of the democratic system. An example: Allende's regime. What happened there was that the United States did not let it work: It embargoed its copper; it embargoed this and embargoed that, and it made its life impossible. Chile's "CAUS" also made its existence impossible.

[Question] Suppose a free and open election were hypothetically held here in Nicaragua and that all parties had the same facilities that the Sandinist Front has to disseminate its ideologies and its propaganda. Suppose the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement won this election, or perhaps the Democratic Conservative Party. Do you think the Sandinist Front would be willing to give them that power?

[Answer] Frankly, one would have to wait for that day, because according to the political theories, it is very difficult to give up power. It is even easier to obtain it than to give it up.

[Question] Does that mean then that the Conservative Party would also have a very hard time giving it up?

[Answer] Oh, yes. Were it ever to reach power, the Conservative Party would have a very hard time giving it up.

RAMIREZ COMMENTS IN COSTA RICA ON COSEP

PA240407 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Nov 81 p 12

[Statement made by Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the junta of the National Reconstruction Government, in San Jose, Costa Rica reported by special correspondent Juan Velasquez]

[Excerpts] Ramirez Mercado accused the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] of trying to activate a political plan different from that of the FSLN.

He added that "the revolution has been forced to imprison three important leaders of Nicaragua's private sector," but he explained that the Nicaraguan Government has the power to suspend the sentence by the posting of bail.

The Nicaraguan leader added "that more radical leaders, such as the communists, were sentenced to longer terms;" and that no economic pressure is being exerted against Costa Rica because of its friendship with Nicaragua.

Ramirez Mercado told the reporters that he does not know where Commander "Cero" Eden Pastora is, but he assured them that Pastora would never lead a counterrevolution. "We are sorry to disappoint those who are thinking of this possibility," he added.

Ramirez stated that Robelo is at the head of a group that is pressuring the FSLN into declaring itself Marxist-Leninist in communist terms. But we tell our adversaries that "the truth is in the facts," he added.

He reiterated that Nicaragua plans to hold elections in 1985, "weather permitting, like the bullfight posters say." Ramirez then added: "unless they invade us."

Our relations (those of the FSLN) with the National Liberation Party of Costa Rica are very old, Ramirez pointed out, and if this party should come to power, we would try to maintain them.

In Nicaragua we hope that a national understanding will be reached which will lead to domestic peace for all the nation, he said.

The Nicaraguan leader was honored last night at a reception in the Nicaraguan Embassy headed by Roberto Leal and was attended by Costa Rican politicians of all leanings, even veteran leftist Manuel Mora Valverde, Jose Figuerez and Rodrigo Gutierrez, the candidate of the Popular Unity Party [Partido Unidad Popular] [as published].

Ramirez Mercado returned to Managua this morning, the Government House reported.

STATION PRAISES HONDURAS FOR NEUTRALITY

PA230413 Managua International Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] From Geneva we have received news that the Honduran Government has lodged a protest with the Salvadoran Government because Salvadoran troops crossed the border last Monday and raided a refugee camp in Honduran territory. They took some of the refugees back with them and put them in prison in El Salvador.

The UN high commissioner for refugees has expressed his deep concern over this incursion by armed men in uniform to a refugee camp of unarmed civilians. During this incredible operation, a Caritas official in Honduras and two Honduran soldiers were killed.

The Honduran Government protest has been lodged against the Salvadoran Christian Democratic government. The protest has been reiterated by the Honduran foreign minister, Col Cesar Elvir Sierra, who said that other incidents carried out by the Salvadoran Army are also included in the protest note.

The Honduran foreign minister emphatically stated that Honduras has formed no alliance with the Armies of Guatemala and El Salvador to fight the guerrillas in those countries. On the contrary, he added, Honduras maintains a neutral position in relation to the domestic affairs of its neighbor countries. This position is inalterable and will remain so because it is based on high ethical principles.

This statement by the Honduran foreign minister has been interpreted as a denial of statements by the Salvadoran and Guatemalan military chiefs, who for some time have been falsely reporting that the Honduran Army has joined with them in the so-called northern triangle or alliance among the three armies to destroy the revolutionary forces which are struggling to overthrow the despotic regimes oppressing the peoples of Guatemala and El Salvador.

One does not need much imagination to understand the importance of the Honduran protest, the foreign minister's statement on the aggression carried out against the refugees and Honduran neutrality regarding the internal affairs of the neighbor countries. We could even say that because of its neutrality, the Honduran Government deserves sincere recognition.

The heated and tragic situation in Central America in the region of El Salvador and Guatemala, the imperialists' threats to internationalize the conflict as well as imperialism's warmongering policy toward the region give the Honduran position a special character. The most brilliant thinkers in the area, the unlimited needs of the peoples, the impact of inflation to our countries plus all the possible and imaginable elements are leading to one single and necessary action in the region. This action is no other than the pursuit of peace, the consolidation of peace, the end of tensions and the guarantee of an existence dedicated to creative work.

We are all involved in this battle for peace. Our country has confirmed this at the United Nations, the world's most important organization. We can say that the path followed since Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, went to the United Nations will be the one our country will follow until the end.

Peace should not be just an aspiration; it should be an action to overcome all the plans of the enemies of our peoples. Therefore, we are sincerely pleased to learn the truthfulness of the Honduran Government's neutrality position.

CDS DIRECTOR ON SOMOZIST INFILTRATION TASKS

PA230038 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 Nov 81 pp 1, 10

[Text] Nora Navas, national-level director for the organization office of the Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS], yesterday admitted that despite the efforts made, Somozist infiltration of the structures of this mass organization continues to be a serious problem.

She also admitted that in many Sandinist Defense Committees, there are neighborhood leaders who are arbitrary, abusive and opportunistic. In her opinion, this problem should be opposed by the bases of the organization.

She said that for obvious reasons it was almost logical that the infiltration occurred immediately after the people's victory and that it was really a serious problem which must be faced.

Nora Navas added that as a result of actions taken in this respect, Somozist infiltration has diminished somewhat, particularly after the reorganization in March this year. However, she said that even after more than 2 years of revolution, Somozist elements are still in CDS administrative posts because this mass organization has not been totally and completely restructured.

In fact, shortly before this interview, a woman from Managua charged that the CDS in her neighborhood had refused to issue a certificate of residence to her daughter-in-law, simply because she stopped attending the meetings. The woman said that this act was absolutely arbitrary because the CDS directors had no right to take repressive measures against citizens who, for any reason including their disapproval of the organization, cannot actively participate in the CDS.

Companera Navas said that the people are now trying to elect responsible and reasoning people to the CDS, but that there still are irregularities which permit the election of arrogant, opportunistic or simply abusive elements.

In this respect, she added that the bases of the CDS should be the ones to remove directors who behave improperly because the National Directorate cannot take care of more than 10,000 committees in the country, because it does not have the personnel or financial resources.

Nora Navas said that when the bases of the CDS have problems with directors who are arrogant or assume attitudes against the people, they must complain to the neighborhood committees so that these negative elements are removed from administrative posts. If the neighborhood committees do not solve the problem, they should present the problem to higher authorities at the municipal, departmental or national levels.

She said that the CDS bases should not be afraid to take direct action, because they are the ones with the power to support or question their leaders in each district or zone.

Regarding the main tasks of these mass organizations, Companera Navas said that at this moment and in view of the threats of foreign military aggression against Nicaragua from international reactionary forces, revolutionary defense and vigilance are most important.

She added that, nevertheless, the people's political and ideological education is not being neglected. Seminars will be held for the most outstanding CDS leaders, who will then continue the work in their respective zones. Navas indicated that a seminar is already in progress in Carazo and that others will be held for the rest of the year in Managua and Esteli. The seminars will continue next year in other departments.

GROUPS REPORTEDLY SUPPORT POLITICAL PARTIES' LAW

PA210220 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 81

[Excerpts] The proposed law to regulate political parties that was presented to the State Council by the FSLN demonstrates the revolutionary government's interest in legally guaranteeing the political pluralism that already exists in fact. This statement was made by Rodolfo Robelo Herrera, vice president of the Independent Liberal Party, PLI, who said that the mere presentation of the bill in itself legalizes the political pluralism of the revolutionary government, which has been in practice since 19 July 1979.

Robelo added that the bill is worthy of considered, in-depth analysis and that, therefore, the PLI has formed a commission to study the bill and prepare the party's official position on it.

Wilfredo Montalvan, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, PSD, yesterday commented on the political parties' law, saying that it is a positive initiative on the part of the FSLN and the revolutionary government.

Nevertheless, Montalvan expressed the opinion that the proposal has certain defects that were caused by the fact that it was not discussed beforehand with the dissident parties.

The PSD leader added that if the law stipulates that a party must belong to the State Council in order to have access to legal benefits, rights and obligations, then his group would take the necessary steps to join the legislative organ.

The motion presented this week to the State Council by the FSLN regarding the creation of a law to regulate political parties was broadly supported by the Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions, CUS, and the ecumenical sector.

Representatives of these organizations on the State Council noted the country's urgent need for a law that, within the legal institutional framework, will regulate the activities of the country's political parties.

Jose Espionsa of CUS expressed approval of the FSLN's decision in the following words:

[Begin recording] I believe that Nicaragua needs a law on political parties because at present there are many political parties that are operating in a de facto manner. We need a legal, institutional framewrok which fully outlines the parties' right to exist.

Undoubtedly, all activity must be regulated within a legal, institutional context and political parties cannot be excepted. The need exists and although undoubtedly [words indistinct] I support the position of the FSLN on the need for this law on political parties. [end recording]

BRIEFS

AID TO EDUCATION -- A commission of the National Council of Higher Education (CNES) recently toured Europe and the USSR with very positive results. The Netherlands donated $25,000 to the Augusto Cesar Sandino Foundation. Between 500 and 600 graduate and postgraduate scholarships will be donated by the USSR, Bulgaria, the GDR, Sweden, Switzerland and Belgium. Some 50 to 60 professors from those countries will serve as teachers and advisers in Nicaraguan universities and Nicaraguan professors will travel to those countries for study. Pledges for thousands of dollars in money and laboratory equipment were received. Research agreements were signed wtih the USSR and Bulgaria and other cooperation agreements with Sweden and Belgium are being negotiated. At present 1,000 Nicaraguan scholarship students are studying throughout the world. [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Nov 81 p 5 PA]

CASTRO DISCUSSES WORLD PROBLEMS IN INTERVIEW

PA200317 Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish Nov-Dec 81 pp 39-42

[Excerpts of Julio Scherer Garcia's interview with Fidel Castro published in the magazine PROCESO, of Mexico, in September 1981; "It's Not Fiction: Total and Definitive War: A Real Possibility"]

[Text] Havana -- There is a balance between his words and his personality, between his intelligence and his fantastic past. A word machine, he overcomes any limitations once he has spoken the first five sentences. He enraptures the audience and enraptures himself. He enjoys his audience as much as they enjoy him. His eyes light up when he speaks. In the sunlight his beard is black, but in artificial light it has a reddish tint. He is simple and open; soft yet firm.

In a small living room where luxury was unexpected, he took off his belt and ordered his aide to take away his revolver. He asked for a straight shot of whiskey and lit the cigar with which he would toy all evening. Still not feeling quite at ease, he unbuttoned his jacket collar, crossed his legs and looked at his shiny black boots.

Reagan's World: The Heroes of Frustration

[Question] On 1 January 1959 Eisenhower was the president of the United States and you entered Havana leading the rebel army. Since then, what has happened in that country? How was Eisenhower's world and how is Reagan's world?

[Answer] Eisenhower was in all ways an unquestionable leader; he had prestige and was elected president during his country's best political, economic and military times. He reaped the laurels of war and reaped the advantages of his lucky star. His administration evolved with no major problems. I don't believe the general devoted too many hours to the problems of state and to the administration. He liked sports, golf, entertainment.

If Eisenhower is victory's hero, Reagan is frustration's hero. Some say that he made use of the trauma caused to the United States by the defeat in Vietnam and the national feeling of despair it left. But I ask myself: What frustration? Because the so-called frustration over the Vietnam defeat was only the fair consequence of a great historical mistake and of a great crime.

The son of defeat succeeds during a period of inflation and recession, [both of] which he had also exploited electorally. But the victory coincides with the technological development of Western countries, who are increasingly competing against U.S. industry and monopolies -- including, of course, the colossal Japanese development that surpasses U.S. automobile production and the effectiveness of the FRG -- and which forces them to abandon the classic laws of free enterprise and trade to hide behind the shield of import quotas. To the above was added the energy crisis, which struck the U.S. conscience so hard because although the country is one of the greatest world producers of oil, gas and coal, it faced an unknown situation which was in this specific case, that Third World nations had enough power to confront the empire and the whole of the West.

World Military Imbalance

[To this we] add events in Iran, which are important because of the humiliation inflicted upon the U.S. people's pride. The hostage episode liquidated Kennedy as a presidential hopeful, since the launching of his candidacy was almost simultaneous with the unification of public opinion around the sudden problem they faced. Kennedy would have beat Reagan in the elections. Eisenhower knew the times of unquestionable worldwide superiority. Reagan knows the times of the unquestionable balance of power. [When] advocating an antiliberal platform, he dreams about altering that balance to his favor, without weighing the terrifying consequences he may unleash.

Son of Opulence

Reagan believes that the more the rich have, the more they will invest. I would say that is an old idea that no longer fits in today's world. [Margaret] Thatcher applied the same theory in the United Kingdom and is now suffering the consequences: 3 million unemployed workers.

There are 7.2 million unemployed in the United States and inflation is not slowing down. The promise to balance the budget by 1984 has no possibility of success, because the rate of military expenditures and the lowering of taxes for the rich will only increase the national deficit.

There is one final detail about these two worlds, that of Reagan and that of Eisenhower. Today we are more politically educated; we are more aware. Despite the monopolies in mass media, today's society is a society of opinions, concepts and convictions, a society that is more informed than that of the general's times.

Reagan shall fall off the cliff if he does not modify his conduct. To the failures of others, which he so admirably catalyzed, he will add his own failure.

U.S. Fascism

[Question] What is the parallel that exists between the struggle against the fascism of Hitler, Mussolini and Franco and Reagan's era?

[Answer] If we talk about fascism, I immediately associate those days and the ones we live today, Hitler's era with Reagan's era. I cannot but relate the German empire to U.S. imperialism's drive for world supremacy.

Reagan has declared himself to be the world's policeman. He forbids change: in Central America, in Africa, in Asia. Let not a single leaf move against his will, because behind every action that he himself does not decide there is a Soviet conspiracy or a Soviet-Cuban conspiracy.

Such is the mentality of the fascist group in power, which I clearly differentiate from the peoples of the United States, [who have] a very long history of struggles for freedom. Yet between Hitler and Reagan, I repeat, there are many similarities. There is one key fact: Hitler tried to change the correlation of world forces and would not admit obstacles in his attempt to fulfill his obsession. Reagan is the same.

Over Hitler's tracks walks Reagan's feet. The march has begun. For the good of all, I hope he stops, meditates and returns to the path of the greatest tradition of the great country he governs.

El Salvador: The Heroic Struggle of a People

[Question] In defense of the Salvadoran people, Mexico and France are challenging the U.S. Government's policy in Central America. What is the political weight of that decision?

[Answer] For some time a type of international consensus has been emerging regarding the need to end the bloodbath that is occurring in El Salvador. Important forces in the world have expressed themselves in this regard. That is the position of the European Social Democrats; it is the position of Canada; it is the position of many Third World and nonaligned countries.

Who is opposed? Essentially the United States. It wants a military solution in El Salvador, to crush and annihilate the revolutionaries. Reagan thinks that in El Salvador he must show that he won't permit a progressive change in the world. He gives weapons, sends military advisers, gives economic aid and promotes a very strange union between the Christian Democrats and the most bloodthirsty group of militarymen in the hemisphere.

Christian Democarcy is lending its name and ideology to this genocide. It has allies, led by the Venezuelan Government which is also Christian Democratic. One day they will both hear the swan song of that wretched organization to which they belong.

The Social Democrats are winning prestige and the Christian Democrats are losing it. Identified with crimes in El Salvador, it has lost political and moral authority. The murders are horrifying. Batista killed and tortured but he was not a specialist in suffering. The experts in excessive cruelty have grown in number and skill. These experts were trained in Vietnam. I am referring to facts widely known and accepted in the United States.

The Gestapo committed infamous crimes. I have read books on Himmler and his methods. I believed, and I'm speaking without being naive and with absolute good faith, that in the second half of the 20th century man could not surpass the Nazis. However, man has broken the barrier and has created aberrant techniques of horror. He detects the invisible fibers of human beings, finds them and drives the victim mad to such a degree and intensity as he wants. Or he kills the victim slowly or amidst a slaughter.

In the face of this daily tragedy in El Salvador, the Venezuelan Government has the cynicism to proclaim itself Christian Democrat. It is a hyprocritical regime that views and sponsors the crimes and what is worse, it does this with the name of Christ on its lips.

Now then, what did Mexico and France propose? They simply proposed a search for a negotiated solution that will end the Salvadoran genocide. I don't understand how a moderate, constructive and just position such as this one can be described as interventionist.

I am a revolutionary and would vote for the victory of the Salvadoran revolutionaries. However, I understand the positions of the supporters of the peace formula and I'm willing to join that line.

Beyond any other consideration the important thing is that the parties involved in the struggle find a way to end the agony of a country that is bleeding to death. The civilized world wants a political solution in El Salvador. The United States is intransigently opposed.

Despite the uproar raised by the imperialists, Mexico and France's decision will be a mark of honor for those countries.

Colombia and Costa Rica

[Question] Colombia and Costa Rica apparently do not want good relations with Cuba. What is your opinion of their presidents?

[Answer] I don't have a good opinion of either Carazo or Turbay. I think Carazo let himself be influenced by the United States to the point of agreeing to break even the tenuous and almost ridiculous relations which he maintained with us. The most that he had dared was to have consular relations. However, not everything I have to say about him is bad. I think he played a positive role in the solidarity and support of the Nicaraguan patriots' struggle against Somoza. This is unquestionable and apparently imperialism doesn't want to forgive him. I can also tell you that he has maintained good and honorable relations with Nicaragua and that he has not joined the campaign of hostility against the Sandinist government. Lastly, I think that at this time Carazo's regime is the victim of U.S. maneuvers and plots in an effort to discredit him and get even for old grievances.

We are not friends and we have complaints against him. Personal feelings are not involved. However, I don't want to join the intrigues against him. I would not begrudge him and his people success. He is a victim of intrigues and the imperialists have even promoted rightwing subversion in his country. They would view with pleasure a Pinochet in San Jose and the creation of an army in Costa Rica to incorporate it in favor of Reagan's hegemonic designs in Central America.

However, we are not going to speak in the same way about the Colombian president. I met Turbay when he was foreign minister. His airplane was hijacked to Havana one afternoon and I went to the airport and greeted him.

We looked after him and gave him all kinds of comforts. There were grounds for good relations which had already been established with that country. However, it was precisely after the meeting of the nonaligned countries that Cuba, for the first time in the course of its revolution, submitted its candidacy to the UN Security Council. We had an overwhelming majority of supporters. At this point Mr Turbay, allowed himself to be used as an instrument of the United States and launched Colombia's candidacy. We had over 90 votes. We only needed a few more to secure the 2/3 majority that would have brought us victory. Turbay's candidate, which did not even get 60 votes, would not concede. He maintained his traitorous position. There had never before been 157 voting rounds in the United Nations and never, in my opinion, was such a shameless maneuver done so obviously. Now he is continuing on the same path by condemning the French-Mexican declaration that supports the Salvadoran people, again to serve the interests of the United States. Moreover, he has joined Uruguay and Argentina in offering to send Colombian soldiers to the Sinai, in another act of servilism, to establish a peace force in the region in order to validate the Camp David agreements. It is difficult to judge human beings, but I wonder what he can do as president of Colombia in the present circumstances in that country. Turbay may be an admirable, and even a good person. However, I find it difficult to believe that he could have these qualities when he agrees to become a toy of the Colombian oligarchy, the Colombian Army and imperialism. I could call him a lackey, but the word toy is even more impersonal.

[Question] You reported 1 year ago that in the United States and in no less than high Reagan circles, there was renewed discussion of the "right" to invade Cuba if a situation of conflict occurred in another part of the world. Could Poland represent this "situation of conflict in another part of the world?"

[Answer] We are not to blame for what may occur in another part of the world. Therefore, it is difficult for me to conceive of something as absurd as the formulation of a plan to attack Cuba on crazy pretexts. That theory, which I indeed denounced, is irresponsible and risky. Confronted with it, we can only be determined to fight and die. For many years we have known that an act of aggression against Cuba, on whatever pretext, could lead the world into a large-scale, uncontrollable war.

[Question] Do you believe in the possibility of a total, final war?

[Answer] I do.

[Question] Total and final?

[Answer] Yes, honestly, yes. For me it would be sweet, romantic and idealistic to think that this threat does not exist. However, this is a real possibility for the first time in history, a possibility that transcends all science fiction. Imperialism wants to own the world at any price and men have developed a technology that they are unable to control. Science is going far and is advancing continuously, unlike humanism or politics as an art to achieve peace and well-being. We were very close to a nuclear war in the fall of 1962. The experience was dazzling. I had the impression that there might be fear and even panic among the people, but this was not the case. Serenity reigned because we knew that we were right. I found the serenity which the people were willing to die moving and almost incredible.

In 1962 the World Was on a Powder Keg

Over the years I have analyzed the course of events. History demonstrated that the solution was positive after all. We were not happy with it, but at the time it averted an imminent world war and, in the final analysis, imperialism had to comply with its commitment to respect Cuba.

There are other facts: That unforgettable autumn brought us all to a period of detente in the cold war. It brought relief and hope.

[Question] And now?

[Answer] The problems have returned. The cold war is filtering in all around, like the wind in a house without doors and windows.

The circles of political power in the United States go to unheard-of extremes. I am perfectly aware that right now there is discussion of invading Cuba from a legal viewpoint and the specialists and politicians are discussing whether or not the 1962 agreement has a 20-year expiration date. All this is a form of madness. Invade a country on the pretext that an agreement has expired after 20 years? Is a commitment of a nation then binding only on one president or on two or three?

In this madhouse we are guided by one principle: The defense of Cuba is, primarily, the affair of Cubans. This is our philosophy and our moral duty. We reject the idea that our people should believe that the security of a country depends above all on international solidarity. Our defense depends, above everything else, on ourselves. We have weapons and fighting spirit. The country has engendered a generation of patriots. Cuba is in their hands.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON 'BRIGHT STAR' MANEUVERS

FL191931 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 19 Nov 81

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of Cuba has issued a declaration about the development of "Bright Star," the warmongering military maneuvers being conducted in northeastern Africa by forces of the United States, Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman. The Cuban declaration says: The official propaganda campaign being mounted in this respect, attempts to present the maneuvers as a demonstration of might, mainly directed at persuading potential hypothetical aggressors that the United States has the capability and will needed to respond rapidly and efficiently in assistance of its allies in the area.

The people know, however, the true objectives of the operation, inasmuch as the only power that for more than 30 years now has acted aggressively in the area is Israel, allied strategically to Yankee imperialism, who has always known how to excuse and conceal the misdeeds of its protege, whether they be massacres in Lebanon, aggression against Iraq or the recent intimidating Saudi raid, supposedly monitored by the AWACS.

It would be appropriate to ask: What is the real purpose of bringing together, in operation "Bright Star," U.S. military forces and those governments that do business with the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, work for the dismembering of its neighbors, demand imperialist protection or openly advocate the assassination of statesmen they hate? There are sufficient motives for having sound suspicions that such an assembly of forces is aimed directly at the heart of progressive governments in the area and, very particularly, at the Libyan revolution.

Our world has known too many tragic experiences not to notice the ominous consequences that could be derived from provocative and irresponsible acts, such as those that appear to be plotted under the cloak of maneuvers which, like "Bright Star" or "Red X," illustrate the imperialist eagerness to achieve military superiority on the planet and impose its conditions upon the rest of humanity.

It is urgent to unite the voice and action of all peace-loving peoples, offer our militant solidarity to the Libyan people and block the path of imperialist adventurism.

Signed, Foreign Ministry of Cuba

INDOCHINESE SEMINAR: DELEGATION, ARRIVALS, SPEECHES

SRV Delegation Arrival

FL182301 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 18 Nov 81

[Text] Tran Lam, alternate member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the SRV's Central Radio and Television Commission, has arrived in this capital to take part in the international seminar on Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea. Tran Lam is heading the Vietnamese delegation attending the meeting which opens tomorrow at the Palace of Conventions. The meeting is of great importance for the three Indochinese peoples, considering the maneuvers of U.S. imperialism and its ally, the PRC.

WPC's Chandra's Arrival

FL201250 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 20 Nov 81

[Text] Romesh Chandra, chairman of the World Peace Council, arrived last night in Havana to participate in the international seminar on solidarity for Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, which is being held in this capital. Chandra was met at the Jose Marti Airport by Elena Gil, chairwoman of the Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of Nations, and by Melba Hernandez, general secretary of the Organization for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa and America.

Chandra will give an out of turn speech at the seminar, which is being held in the Palace of Conventions.

Opening of Seminar

FL191945 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Nov 81

[Text] The path that the ever-increasingly close U.S.-PRC relations are taking is a serious danger for peace in Indochina and the world. This was said by Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo and chief of the General Department of Foreign Affairs of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, at the opening of the solidarity for Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea international seminar, which will hold sessions from today until Saturday at the Palace of Conventions.

Montane emphasized the importance that the seminar has within the framework of the current world situation, which is characterized by the ever-increasing aggressiveness of imperialism and the world's economic crisis, the dark causes of which are to be found in U.S. policy.

He recalled that the current policy of the Reagan administration has been termed by our party as adventurous and irresponsible, and it has the objective of increasing Yankee imperialism's role as the gendarme of the world.

Montane mentioned the main centers of tension throughout the world that have been created by the United States and its allies. When referring to Asia, the Cuban leader said that the United States is using the hegemonists of the PRC as spearheads and this is why Beijing is a serious threat in the region when it instigates and promotes aggression and subversion in the countries of Indochina. Concluding his speech, Montane mentioned the solidarity and international support that our country has received due to the current situation and he expressed his wishes for a successful seminar.

During the morning session, the head of the Vietnamese delegation, (Chang Lan), read out a message that was sent by the Vietnamese president, Pham Van Dong, to the participants in this seminar. Debate also began on the paper entitled: "The Hegemonic and Expansionist Policy of China in Southeast Asia," submitted by (Helmut Angula), representative of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization].

Pham Van Dong Message

FL192305 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 19 Nov 81

[Text] Pham Van Dong, chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, has said that the international seminar of solidarity with the Indochinese peoples underway in Havana is a radiant expression of combative solidarity and of the support of the peoples for this region. In a message read by the SRV delegation to the seminar, the Vietnamese leader adds that the gathering also constitutes a strong demonstration by peace and justice-loving forces in the three continents against the adventuristic and dangerous policy of imperialism. He also expresses appreciation for the Afro-Asian-Latin American peoples organization's support for his people, both in the past struggle for independence and freedom and in the present endeavor of building and defending the fatherland.

Chandra's Address

FL211655 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 21 Nov 81

[Text] The International seminar of solidarity with Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea will end today at Havana's Palace of Conventions. During yesterday's session, Romesh Chandra, chairman of the World Peace Council, made a fiery speech in support of the Indochinese peoples, Cuba and all those struggling for independence and freedom.

The topics "China's Scheming With Imperialism" and "Reactionary Forces Against National Liberation Movements" as well as "Unity Among Indochinese Parties, and Their Policy of Peace and Good Neighbor for the Area's Stability" were discussed yesterday. Likewise, numerous message of solidarity with the Indochinese peoples were read. The representatives of Vietnam and Laos made speeches in which they attacked Yankee imperialism and the hegemonist Beijing gang.

Fidel With Chandra

FL231331 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Text] Our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of Cuba's Communist Party and president of Council of State and Council of Ministers, met with the chairman of the World Peace Council, who is in Cuba to participate in the international seminar for solidarity with Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea. During the meeting, Fidel lauded the value of the task that is being carried out by the World Peace Council in the defense of peace and the importance of that organization's activities within the context of the current world situation.

RAUL CASTRO DECORATED FOR MINIT SERVICE

FL211339 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Nov 81

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro has been decorated with the "Years of Service in the Interior Ministry" [MINIT] medal during a ceremony held at Havana's MINIT central offices. The medal was pinned on the second secretary of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] by Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes, member of the Politburo and minister of the interior.

With this ceremony, the MINIT begins the program of activities honoring the 25th anniversary of the FAR founding, which will be celebrated throughout the country from 2 December, the day of the anniversary, to 2 January.

Div Gen Jose Abrahantes, first vice minister of the interior, read the document bestowing the medal on Raul. The document notes his exceptional merits and points out that he has led the FAR with true skill under Fidel's direction.

Subsequently, Ramiro Valdes presented to the first vice prime minister a real Mambi machete on behalf of the MINIT combatants. He also made the closing remarks during which he recounted the history of the organization soon to commemorate its 25th anniversary. Ramiro said it is impossible to talk about the FAR without referring to the extraordinary role played by Army Gen Raul Castro in its organization and development.

VEIGA WANTS 'SUPREME' SUGAR CANE HARVEST

FL231354 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1308 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Text] On summing up the Matanzas provincial conference of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], Roberto Veiga, the secretary general of the CTC and alternate member of the Politburo, said that now more than ever the country needs to obtain a supreme harvest with a maximum of efficiency at every level. During his address, Viega explained the need for advancing in an overall form in order to counter the negative effects of the world crisis and the low sugar prices at the same time that our workers are also preparing for defense.

ARMANDO HART VIEWS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

PM231503 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 18 Nov 81 p 9

[Jesus Estevez interview in Madrid with Cuban Communist Party Politiburo member and Minister of Culture Armando Hart: "Europe and World Have Greater Awareness of Danger of War, according to Armando Hart"; date of interview not specified]

[Excerpt] "I believe that there is greater awareness in Europe and in the world of the danger of a war. There is greater awareness that an intervention in one area could have repercussions on other areas," Armando Hart Davalos, minister of culture and member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee's Politburo, stated. Hart, who is 51 years of age, has paid a brief private visit to Spain before returning to Havana, following official visits to France and Algeria.

In the Cuban minister's opinion, the situation in the Caribbean cannot be divided from the tension existing in the world: "It is necessary to mobilize international public opinion to avert a thermonuclear catastrophe."

Armando Hart, who was one of Fidel Castro's first comrades in the struggle to overthrow Fulgencio Batista's regime in Cuba, stated that his visits to France and Algeria were in principle of a cultural nature, but, in view of the international situation, it was natural to broach the issue with the leaders with whom he held talks, especially in Paris.

"We found that there is a favorable reaction in Europe toward Cuba and Nicaragua and toward the need for no aggression to occur in the Caribbean. There is greater awareness in Europe and in the world of the danger of a war," the Cuban minister of culture stated.

According to Armando Hart, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has plans concerning the Caribbean island which envisage a strengthening of the blockade, an increase in the naval presence in the area and threats of acts of aggression, "under the pretext that we have sent 500 or 600 troops to fight in El Savlador, via Nicaragua. This is a lie," he added, "and our government has called on the Washington government to prove this, without its having replied so far. It is an excuse for attacking us."

"We Will Be a Hard Nut To Crack"

"We are prepared for a possible attack, and we will be a hard nut to crack," said the Cuban minister, who believes that the U.S. Government is worried about the deterioration in the Salvadoran regime's position. "That is why is has rejected the proposal of a political solution put forward by France and Mexico and is preparing interventionist plans in the area. Here is the source of the increase in tension in this area.

In his opinion, this context cannot be isolated from the deterioration in the international atmosphere. "The U.S. Government is also speaking of the possibility of a nuclear war confined to Europe. This is very serious. Public opinion must react and is already doing so, in light of this, to avert a thermonuclear catastrophe."

Question: Do you believe that Spain's joining NATO would alter the existing balance of forces between the blocs?

Answer: I should not answer this question. I would not like to enter into a Spanish internal debate. I must only say that our stance toward the Atlantic Alliance is clear and already known to everybody; it is a repressive force of the imperialist system.

Question: It has been said that Spain's joining that alliance could cause other countries to join the Warsaw Pact -- for instance, Cuba.

Answer: That is pure speculation. What really interests us is what the peoples should do to avert an arms race which has its origin in the policy pursued by the United States of acting as an international policeman. Detente and disarmament are of interest to Spain, Europe and Latin America.

Question: From the "other side," they reply that the USSR has also helped to increase international tension with its intervention in Afghanistan.

Answer: This forms part of the campaign against the socialist countries in which any pretext is used to attack the Soviet Union's peace-loving intentions. Peace is indissociable from the socialist countries. Like the USSR, we would like to be able to devote to education and production the resources which we earmark for defense. I emphasize that it necessary to seek the origin if this arms race.

Question: Do you believe that the Soviet Union would come to your assistance in the event of a U.S. military intervention?

Answer: We cannot speak for the Soviets. But the USSR has always displayed solidarity toward us. At any event, it would not be right for us to reply on that solidarity, although we trust in it, since we should rely on our fighting spirit and on our determination to fight.

INTER-COSMOS PROGRAM DIRECTORS END MEETING

FL232128 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Text] The 14th session of the presidents of the National Coordinating Organizations of the Inter-Cosmos Program has closed. The session began last Monday at the Cuban Academy of Sciences.

[Begin (Alchules) recording] Regarding this 14th meeting of the presidents of the National Coordinating Organizations of the Inter-Cosmos Program. It can be said that, as is the custom, we have carefully studied the work carried out by the scientists who have participated in the various wrok groups of the Inter-Cosmos Program, and we have also established the guidelines and recommendations regarding the further development of our work, both for the coming year and for the next 5-year period. [end recording]

At the conclusion of the address by Comrade Jose (Alchules), president of the Cuban delegation, Professor (Verichevin), the president of the Soviet delegation, answered a question formulated by our reporter for the "Noticiero Nacional de Television."

[Question] It is well known that the Inter-Cosmos Program explores space for peaceful purposes. However, there are Western countries which focus their greatest efforts on rather warlike purposes. We would like to have your opinion in this respect.

[Answer, in Russian with consecutive Spanish translation] Since the beginning of cosmic research work, our country has favored and continues to favor the use of the cosmos for peaceful purposes, that is the peaceful use of the cosmos, not for militaristic purposes. In the past, we have attained certain successes using the various means of international law to obtain a certain demilitarization of the cosmos. I am specifically referring to the treaty signed in 1967 in which any type of missile with nuclear heads and various types of arms of mass extermination were in fact prohibited from being placed in orbit. This agreement included the various stellar objectives. We could say that it also included the moon and the various other objectives called special by us. More than 70 countries in the world have signed this treaty, but, as I said before, unfortunately it was a partial demilitarization. In recent times, we have witnessed how U.S. imperialism, on the contrary, has used the cosmos for militaristic purposes.

BARBADOS

CUBA'S ALARCON COMMENTS ON TOUR OF REGION

FL201648 Bridgetown CANA in English 1630 GMT 20 Nov 81

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 20 Nov (CANA) -- Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon said today his week-long tour of the Caribbean had produced "very positive impressions" and had also served to strengthen the sense of understanding and friendship between Havana and the various governments. He returns to Havana today after visiting Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Barbados and St. Lucia.

Speaking to the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) by telephone, the deputy foreign minister said the tour had also reassured his government that the Caribbean was not up for sale and that regional governments, in spite of differences, still wanted to cooperate with Cuba. "Some people think the region can be for sale, but this is not so. In Mr Seaga's case, he has gone a bit further...He has put the dignity to the country on sale," Senor Alarcon said. This was an obvious reference to Prime Minister Edward Seaga whose government recently decided to sever diplomatic relations with Havana. Cuba said the action was triggered on instructions from Washington.

The deputy foreign minister said that arising out of the tour was the definite possibility of increasing bilateral cooperation between Havana and the region. He mentioned the fields of education, culture and trade as three likely areas. He added that in the near future, there was a possibility of Cuban experts visiting the various governments to discuss in what other areas they would like to cooperate. He said too that regional delegations would be most welcome to visit Havana for the same purpose.

Senor Alarcon said the government of St Lucia had requested further assistance in education by means of scholarships. Noting that the request would be considered, he said 22 St Lucians were already in his homeland benefiting from Cuba scholarships. He stressed that Cuba wanted to play a role in developing the region of which it was a part.

Senor Alarcon praised the governments which entertained him, especially Barbados, for their hospitality.

Alarcon Ends Visit

FL191550 Bridgetown CANA in English 1409 GMT 19 Nov 81

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 19 Nov (CANA) -- Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister Senor Richard Alarcon has expressed the hope that the cordial relations which exist between his country and Barbados would be strengthened to their mutual benefit, the Government Information Service has reported here.

Senor Alarcon was at the time paying a courtesy call on Barbados' minister of foreign affairs, Louis Tull, during this week's visit to Barbados. The two ministers held discussions concerning the exchange of visits at high levels to further cement the understanding between the two countries. At the same time, Senor Alarcon brought Mr Tull up-to-date with the circumstances surrounding the breaking off of diplomatic relations between Cuba and Jamaica, and explained his country's position on the matter. The deputy foreign affairs minister however looked forward to an amelioration in relations between the two countries.

During the talks, Senor Alarcon also thanked Mr Tull for the hospitality given to the Cuban participants during Carifesta 81 in Barbados this year. The deputy foreign affairs minister, who is on a Caribbean tour, left yesterday for St Lucia.

DOMINICA

CHARLES PLEASED WITH AID-SEEKING TALKS

FL191141 Bridgetown CANA in English 2359 GMT 18 Nov 81

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 18 Nov (CANA) -- Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles ended 3 days of aid-seeking talks here this evening, reporting a "good response" from prospective donors. Her main concern has been to secure a 4 million E.C. dollar (1 E.C. dollar: 33 cents U.S.) package for rehabilitating the important but flagging Dominican lime industry.

Miss Charles, who arrived here on Monday, said that the European Development Fund (EDF) and the British Development Division (BDD) had shown the most interest in the scheme and a large portion of the funds were likely to come from the two groups. Details of the aid package have however not yet been finalized.

The Dominican prime minister also met with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Trinidad-based Caribbean Food Corporation (CFC) and the UN Development Program (UNDP). She estimated that her government would begin work on the lime rehabilitation program early next year. "We will have some of the money by then," she said.

Besides seeking funding for the lime industry, Miss Charles also held talks with the BDD and "approached" the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) about assistance for Dominica's troubled banana industry. She said that the BDD had shown great concern about the industry's future in the discussions and she expressed optimism that Dominica was also getting similar consideration from USAID. USAID had already given aid to the industry, following large-scale destruction by two recent hurricanes in 1979 and 1980. Miss Charles is expected to return home tomorrow.

GRENADA

FOREIGN MINISTER WHITEMAN CONTINUES U.S. TOUR

FL190235 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 18 Nov 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Brother Unison Whiteman has repeated his call for top-level meetings between the United States and Grenada. The call was repeated as he continued his goodwill tour of North America. Today Brother Whiteman met with Senator Paul Tsongas of the U.S. Senate and with representative Tom (Harkin) of the House of Representatives.

According to Brother Ian Jacobs of the Grenada mission in Washington [as heard], it was at these meetings that Brother Whiteman repeated Grenada's call, for there has been no reply from the Reagan administration. [Begin recording] In all of his engagements, Comrade Whiteman raises Grenada's deep concern at the heightening of tension in our region caused by the Reagan administration's hostile foreign policy [word indistinct] and actions. He further expressed Grenada's strong commitment to maintain the Caribbean as a zone of peace. It was in this context that the minister called for dialogue at the highest level between Grenada and the United States. Thus far, Comrade Whiteman's calls for talks have not received any official response from the U.S. Government. Meanwhile, later today, Comrade Whiteman is scheduled to meet with President [Herrera] Campins of Venezuela. [end recording]

OAS Address

FL192015 Bridgetown CANA in English 1707 GMT 19 Nov 81

[Text] Washington, 19 Nov (CANA) -- A situation of mounting repression in the Caribbean is giving rise to increased regional tension, disrupting the peace, the security and the peaceful development of the region, according to the minister of foreign affairs of Grenada, Unison Whiteman.

Military actions are being proposed. This is dangerous, very dangerous, said Whiteman before a protocolary session of the OAS Permanent Council in his honor. It is the insidious entrenched social and political inequities and injustices which make the people of the region restless for progress and active in that quest, Whiteman told the political council of the largely Latin American body. It is therefore insane to confront poverty and social and political injustice with military options or with empty economic promises, the Grenadian minister continued.

He called on member states to give greater and more active support to the long-held principle of ideological pluralism which can contribute to more normal and productive international and inter-American relations for the good of all our people.

Whiteman also called on the OAS "to reaffirm its commitment to maintaining our region as a zone of peace." "In this regard not only the Caribbean, but indeed all the Americas should be respected as a zone of peace, a nuclear-free zone, free of military confrontations, free of punitive military strikes, blockades and displays."

Whiteman reiterated Grenada's "unqualified support" for the joint Mexican-French resolution on El Salvador, saying that "as long as the masses of the people of El Salvador are left outside of the national process which controls their lives, the situation will remain unresolved. We join with others once again in urging a negotiated political solution."

Touching on Nicaragua he said: "Grenada offers its sisterly solidarity to the government and people -- who are making a heroic effort to solve the multitude of social and economic problems of their people. They deserve the right to unfold their own process without the threat of outside interference and compromise."

Whiteman solicited "a good faith undertaking aimed at the economic development of our Americas" and expressed hope the OAS special general assembly for development cooperation would be held next year, promising that his government would do its part, "not just on the small states' concerns, but on the equally important issues of energy, food and education." In that context, he stated that his government "will always hold the government of Mexico in the highest esteem" for its role in organizing and hosting the last month's Cancun summit between rich and poor states.

Grenada, he said, welcomed Belize and Antigua and Barbuda into the "family of independent Caribbean states. Their independence represents the increased potential for the strengthening of regionalism and the process of our integration movement."

Following Whiteman's presentation and a brief reception for him, the council held its regular session and Ambassador Diego Arrieta of El Salvador expressed an "energetic rejection" of the Grenadian ministers' "unusual allusions" to the situation in the Central American nation.

"My government appreciates the expressions of concern when they come from friendly countries seeking a realistic solution, but cannot accept that a government permit the political good faith of the El Salvadoran Government to be put in doubt, guaranteed by the life and honor of the president of the republic in this very room," he said, referring to President Napoleon Duarte's address to the permanent council here last October.

Before addressing the council, Whiteman met privately with OAS Secretary General Alejandro Orfila and permanent Council Chairman Henricus Heidweiller of Suriname.

Whiteman With Herrera Campins

FL192338 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 19 Nov 81

[Excerpts] Grenada Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman's continuing visit to Washington was highlighted by an hour-long meeting with President Herrera Campins of Venezuela, who is now on a state visit to the United States. Brother Ian Jacobs, who is accompanying Brother Whiteman on his tour of Washington, reported that Brother Whiteman also had other meetings and discussions. [Begin recording] During their cordial and friendly discussions, the two statesmen exchanged views on various regional and international developments.

Also discussed were the friendly relations between Venezuela and Grenada and ideas for strengthening and improving these relations. Also taking part in the discussions was Venezuelan Foreign Minister Zambrano Velasco. [end recording]

Last night Brother Whiteman was the guest of honor at a reception hosted by Grenada's mission to the OAS which was also attended by a large cross section of the diplomatic community resident in Washington. Also attending last night's reception was the dean of the diplomatic community in Washington, Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin.

RADIX CALLS ON U.S. TO EXTRADITE GAIRY

FL232019 Bridgetown CANA in English 2005 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, 23 Nov (CANA) -- Grenada's legal affairs Minister Kenrick Radix has called on the United States to extradite the island's deposed Prime Minister Eric Gairy. Mr Radix made the appeal at a rally held in the rural area of St Andrews yesterday. Other calls from Grenadian Government officials were turned down by Washington. Sir Eric, who was in New York when the leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM) ousted his government on 13 March 1979, is wanted by the Grenada Government to face trial on charges of murder and corruption. The government claims that it has fulfilled all the necessary requirements with the American authorities for the extradition of Sir Eric. It said that the evidence supplied to the United States to substantiate charges against the former prime minister had in some cases come out of the report of an independent commission of inquiry Sir Eric had appointed 8 years ago to probe the administration of justice in Grenada.

34 CHARGED WITH TERRORISM TO DATE IN COUNTRY

FL210002 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 20 Nov 81

[Text] Thirty-four persons so far have been charged under the terrorism prevention act of 1980 since June of this year. This was revealed to RFG [Radio Free Grenada] news tonight by the director of public prosecution, (Lanston Sybil). Brother (Sybil) noted that during recent months, the regional press and the express newspaper in particular, have been saying that the detainees are arbitrarily detained and that Grenada does not have any criminal offense against them. These people are now being tried, he said, and only last week seven persons had been charged in connection with the June 19th bomb blast at Queens Park. Another seven persons are to be tried on Tuesday under the terrorism prevention laws in connection with the November 17th shoot-out in (Plains). The third pending is the (Teddy Victor) case. (Teddy Victor) is being charged in connection with the illegal possession of explosives.

FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY SUPPORT RECEIVED

FL211711 Bridgetown CANA in English 1646 GMT 21 Nov 81

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, 21 Nov (CANA) -- Grenada said today that the French Communist Party and its youth arm, the Communist Youth Movement, have come out in support of the country in the face of mounting hostility to its leftist government from the United States.

An official statement here said that the support came in a message sent to the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Grenada by Georges Marchais, the general secretary of the French Communist Party. The statement said that the message expressed solidarity with the people of the region struggling for national independence, liberty and economic freedom as well as social and cultural progress, and saw Grenadians as among those who have been the victims of hostile propaganda and military aggression from Washington. "These organs of U.S. imperialism exert economic and political pressure aimed at slowing down the development of Grenada," it said.

The statement noted that "imperialism" has reached a stage of direct aggression through military maneuvers in the region, such as the recent "Ocean Venture 81" and operation "Red X" which are directly aimed at threatening the existence of the leftist Grenada Government.

The pro-Cuba Government here has repeatedly accused the United States of seeking to undermine it. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop announced earlier in the month that Washington had stepped up its plans to invade the island with the recent staging of a massive military operation code-named "Red X" from a base in the United States to Vieques Island, off the coast of Puerto Rico. However, last week the administration called for a U.S.-Grenada meeting at the highest level in an effort to normalize relations.

JAMAICA

PAPER CALLS FOR U.S. PEACE PLAN FOR AREA

FL210108 Bridgetown CANA in English 2136 GMT 20 Nov 81

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 20 Nov (CANA) -- The Jamaica DAILY NEWS today hoped that President Reagan's call for nuclear reduction in Europe was a sign of the end of the arms race, but it said that the question of military build-up in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean also needed to be addressed.

Said the DAILY NEWS: "Ever since the Reagan administration took power the aggressiveness with which the U.S. Government pursued its military objective and the quantum of money chanelled into this area virtually eroded the comparative sanity which has characterized the relationship between that country and the Soviet Union." It was against this backdrop that pressure has come on Reagan. From inside and outside the United States, not to propel the world into a war, the paper argued. It added: "...While we sincerely hope that the proposals signal the beginning of the end of this senseless arms race, we cannot but notice that they speak only of Western Europe.

The paper noted that the Cubans were convinced that the United States was about to attack them as did the Grenadians and Nicaraguans. At the same time, the Reagan administration "openly supports the repressive junta in El Salvador and various fascist rulers on the Latin American mainland," the paper said. "Could not peace initiatives be made in these cases also?" the DAILY NEWS asked.

MANLEY DENIES PNP INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM

FL191429 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Nov 81

[Text] Former Jamaica's prime minister and leader of the opposition People's National Party [PNP], Michael Manley, has held a meeting in Kingston with the diplomatic corps accredited to that country, during which he condemned the break of relations of the Caribbean island with our fatherland.

Manley told the diplomats that the PNP is not implicated in terrorist actions or economic sabotage, as asserted by government officials. The former chief of the Jamaican Government stated that the Seaga administration is preparing the conditions for unleashing a campaign of political repression in the country.

PATTERSON EXPLAINS PNP DELEGATION'S VISIT TO CUBA

FL191613 Kingston Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Nov 81

[Text] A vice president of the opposition People's National Party [PNP], Mr P. J. Patterson, says Cubans at all levels have expressed the hope that people-to-people contact between Jamaica and Cuba will continue despite the severing of diplomatic relations with that country by Jamaica. At a press conference, Mr Patterson said the Cuban authorities have given the assurance that Air Jamaica and other aeronautical interests will continue to enjoy the right to fly over Cuba as well as enjoy the use of Cuban air corridors.

The hope, Mr Patterson said, was also expressed that sporting links between the two countries will continue, particularly in view of a visit to Cuba by the (Santos) football of Jamaica and the Barrientos Games next year. While in Cuba, Mr Patterson met with President Castro and other members of the Nonaligned Movement.

BAUXITE COMPANIES ANNOUNCE MORE CUTBACKS

FL210147 Kingston Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 21 Nov 81

[Text] Reynolds Jamaica Mines has announced that it will cut production at its Lydford Mine by more than half and will reduce its total work force by more than 50 percent. Yesterday Kaiser [Bauxite] announced that effective December 7th it would lay off 113 hourly-paid employees and reduce the work week of salary employees. The Reynolds cutback was outlined in a release this evening from Vice President and General Manager of Reynolds Jamaica Mines (Donald Phillips).

The company pointed out that the aluminum mark worldwide was seriously depressed. Reynolds said it would reduce production at the Lydford Mine by more than a half of annual production, about 2.5 million long dry tons of bauxite. The curtailed production will result in the laying off of more than 50 percent of hourly-paid and salary employees. The company said it had discussions with government and its employees' representatives on the impact of the cutback and its implementation. Reynolds said that there are several approaches toward reduction of work force which are presently being discussed with workers' representatives. The effective date of the cutback and when production will stop was not spelled out in the Reynolds release.

ST LUCIA

LABOR PARTY ISSUES REVISED PARTY MANIFESTO

FL180243 Bridgetown CANA in English 2146 GMT 17 Nov 81

[By Guy Ellis]

[Excerpts] Castries, St Lucia, 17 Nov (CANA) -- Prime Minister Winston Cenac's ruling St Lucia Labor Party (SLP), beset by a series of mainly internal problems since coming to power 2 1/2 years ago, has just issued a revised version of its 1979 election manifesto, to guide government's performance during the remaining half of its 5-year term.

A forward to what has been referred to as "the revised labor party manifesto" deals briefly with the recent power struggle referring to it as "one of the worst crisis of parliamentary democracy in the English-speaking Caribbean."

The struggle, the manifesto claims, erupted and prevailed "because a few of those who were entrusted with the task of carrying out the party's manifesto promises considered it more important for them to occupy the top position in government (i.e., the prime ministership), instead of honoring the election pledges which they made to the electorate." The revised manifesto, the party says, "sets minimum and realistic targets and programs" until 1984 when the next elections are constitutionally due.

Because nearly half of its term has been taken up with internal squabbling, the SLP now says that some of the manifesto projects and proposals "will not be achieved by 1984." However, it was determined to start work on the implementation of "at least between 60 and 70 percent of all the basic social and fundamental changes proposed in 1979 especially those dealing with management of the St Lucia economy."

The new manifesto says the SLP remains "firmly committed" to all its 1979 promises but adds that it must now focus its attention on achieving these objectives "towards the middle of its second term in office." In fact, the revised manifesto deals not with the period 1981-84, but rather with 1981-89, an indication that despite the recent experiences which have seriously handicapped fulfillment of the promises of 1979, the SLP is looking towards being there well beyond the current term. Neither does the SLP share the prevailing popular notion here that it has achieved little positive success during the past 2 1/2 years. The new proposals point to an important omission in the 1979 manifesto: the lack of a policy on the development of the fisheries sector.

The SLP has now promised to establish fish storage facilities, modernization and expansion of fishing facilities, including boats, promoting the development of fisheries cooperatives and to pursue, with Canadian assistance, the construction of a comprehensive fisheries complex with suitable transport services to redistribute fish to the consuming public.

In education, the SLP commits itself to expanding the island's scholarship program with Cuba, making education available to all St Lucians between the ages of 5 and 55, providing free transportation to students in the rural areas and generally raising the consciousness of the people to education that is relevant to St Lucia's needs.

The SLP promises to encourage both local and foreign investment in the island's industrial sector, and to hold dialogue with trade unions and workers to determine a policy position on the unionization of employees in infant industries. The government says it intends to promote and support nationals in investing in the industrial sector and will give priority to labor-intensive enterprises.

It describes the island's tourist industry as "a failure", adding that the government intended to revitalize that sector with a view to attracting more visitors in the higher income bracket to the island.

In the area of foreign affairs, the SLP will pursue a course of nonalignemnt, "to continue our strong ties with our traditional friends while exploring new relationships which may be of mutual interest to ourselves and our new friends."

A new feature of the party's foreign policy will be the establishment of diplomatic ties with a number of Arab and African states such as Libya, Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, as well as Brazil, Suriname, Panama, the Phillipines, Japan, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

On the Venezuela-Guyana territorial dispute, the revised manifesto says the ruling party sees it as "a CARICOM issue" and "expressed solidarity with those who advocate a peaceful settlement to the problem based on the existing treaty."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PROVEN GAS RESERVES GOOD FOR 100 YEARS

FL231944 Bridgetown CANA in English 2159 GMT 23 Nov 81

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 22 Nov (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago's proven natural gas reserves are unlikely to run out before the next 100 years. This disclosure was made by Ken Birchwood, general manager of a Trinidad and Tobago concern, TRINMAR, in addressing Chamber of Industry and Commerce members.

Mr Birchwood, whose company is owned jointly by the oil companies Trintoc, Texaco and Tesoro, said that this country gas reserves were now officially "and conservatively" estimated at 17.9 trillion cubic feet and this had been achieved without an intensive search for gas. Mr Birchwood said that although major gas deposits had been found off both the east and north coasts, production of the gas was still to begin. He said that all the major hydrocarbon discoveries in the last 10 years "have been gas".

He explained that when the planned industries at the Point Lisas industrial estate in central Trinidad came on stream the gas demand would be an estimated 500 million cubic feet per day, he said: "At that rate, it will be well nigh 100 years before we will have exhausted our proven reserves. "If those reserves are doubled, we will be talking about a period of production that will take us to a time when changed technology and human demands may have made gas obsolete."

He also pointed out that a genuine petrochemical industry should develop in the country, adding that this would be a source of a second wave of new chemical plants and other downstream activities. "Oil should then join gas as a significant feedstock for valuable secondary and tertiary products locally manufactured," Mr Birchwood said.